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ELDER GEORGE WADDLE

George, oldest son of William and Dorcas Waddle, was born July 6, 1855, and died May 15, 1928. Elder Waddle united with the Primitive Baptist Church at Paint Creek in May 1878, was liberated to speak in public December 1879, and was ordained to the full work of the ministry July 30, 1881. Elder Waddle was called, with J. W. Hoppes, to the pastoral care of this church together, April 26, 1885, both being members of the Paint Creek Church at this time. They continued to pastor their home church until Elder Waddle's death, being 43 years they have pastored continuously the church of their membership.

Elder Waddle was married August 29, 1886, to Miss Alma Blue, who died July 1, 1887. On August 4, 1889, he was married to Jennie Blue, who died Feb. 21, 1930. Elder Waddle's wives were sisters.

ELDER TEMPLE FRANKLIN WADE

WRITTEN BY THE CHARTER SISTERS ON REQUEST OF LITTLE FLOCK CHURCH: Elder Temple Franklin Wade was born June 14, 1915, and died April 18, 1979.

He was married to Miss Eloise Rigby on December 24, 1937, and to this union was born one daughter, Patsy Ruth.

Brother Wade united with Antioch Church in April 1939. He later moved his membership to Jackson Church and then moved to Union Church, where he was ordained to the full work of the ministry. The Lord blessed him with a deep understanding of the Bible, which he, with grace and love, taught us.

He pastored Bethel Church at Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Fellowship at Alexandria, Louisiana; Oak Grove at Smithdale, Mississippi; Ephesus at Fayette, Mississippi; Union at Ruth, Mississippi; Pilgrim's Rest at

Meadville, Mississippi; Friendship at Winona, Mississippi; Macedonia at Newton, Mississippi; and Little Flock of Richland, Mississippi.

Elder Wade helped organize Little Flock Church at Richland, Mississippi, on June 15, 1975. In the construction of the building, he did more than any other man in the financing. And he was always there to help in any way he could. He spent many hours and labors of love on this church where he was pastor until his death.

Brother Wade was a man who was always visiting the sick and ready to help anyone in trouble. When he realized his departure was close, he instructed us to press on in the service of God, looking unto Jesus for all things, giving the glory to God for all we have and are.

ELDER JAMES WAGNER



FROM "THE GOSPEL MESSENGER"
JANUARY 1886: I was born in Franklin County, Tenn., December 25th, 1821. My parents' names were Solomon Wagner and Dicy Russel, the latter a daughter of Major Russel, who accompanied Jackson in his campaigns against the Indians.

In early life I had serious thoughts about death and judgment; but in the fall of 1840, while walking alone in my father's apple orchard as suddenly as thought, with invincible power, I was made to realize that I was a desperate sinner against a just and holy God, and equally as sudden all earthly comforts present and prospective fled; the gloom that overshadowed and encompassed me was deep and depressing, being environed as it were with the very flames of hell. These exercises began on Friday evening and continued with increased intensity, if possible, until the next Sunday evening, in which time I slept no sound sleep. I withdrew from company to a densely shaded creek bottom, meditating upon my awfully miserable state, to try to make my complaints known to my offended Maker, and petition for mercy upon a poor hell deserving rebel, and as I trust, when legal hope fled and creature helps failed, the good Lord appeared and gave the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of

heaviness. Under such transporting emotions of soul, I arose from the earth praising such a glorious and merciful God as I now viewed him.

While thus exercised I thought I would go and tell my mother what had befallen me, but had not gone far before it occurred to me that I might be mistaken, and had better wait till more fully assured of a work of grace. In this state of doubt and uncertainty I continued with occasional manifestations of God's love and reproofs for my rebellion, till the summer of 1855, when I resolved, after maturely considering the subject in all its bearings in connection with my duty to God and myself, to offer myself to the Primitive Baptist Church, believing it to be the Church of Christ, which I did in connection with my wife, at Old Macedonia Church in four miles of where I now live, and was baptized by Elder John P. Walker. Soon after this the duty of appearing before my brethren and fellow man in a public capacity, under a sense of unworthiness, incapacity and unfitness in every sense the importance of the position and the obligations involved, filling me with terror and racking my very soul, against which I fought and contended with all the power and zeal of which I was master was impressed upon me and continued with me for about two months, when, being so overcome with the love of God, my proud heart was humbled, my opposition and rebellion removed, that I rose in conference and in much weakness, tried to tell my brethren some of the exercises of my mind and that I was willing to labor as a child in any place where it was God's pleasure I should. The church responded by giving me full liberty to exercise my gift, which, with much weakness and diffidence as occasion required, I did, until the next fall some time, if I mistake not, a committee from a sister church (the Boiling Fork) requested my ordination, which was consented to, the time set, and a presbytery called, consisting of Elders Elijah Turner, I. E. Douthit and Richard Fain, who officiated in my ordination.

On the 23rd day of December, I was married to Miss Mary A. Hudson, with whom I lived pleasantly till July 1861, when she died. She gave birth to ten children. In February 1864, I married a Mrs. Champion, a widow, whose maiden name was M. A. Sewell, who gave birth to seven children. My circumstances, in a pecuniary sense, were good up to the late war, [Civil War-DM] when all my property, except land and household property, was taken and destroyed. Since which time, by the agency of a very treacherous and corrupt man, I have lost my land, and am living on a thousand-dollar homestead, with a judgment hanging over me.

ELDER BILLY J. WALDEN

I was born in Campbell County in the eastern part of Tennessee, near LaFollette, on May 10, 1935, where I remained until I enlisted into the Air Force in 1953. In 1957 I joined another denomination, and in the course of time was ordained to the work of the ministry with that group.



I am currently Pastor of the Pilgrim's Rest Church located in the community of Stratton in DeWitt County, Texas. I have been Pastor since 1969 at Stratton Church, and from 1964 to 1982 was also Pastor of the Corpus Christi Primitive Baptist Church, and was interim Pastor for the year 1998 while they prayed and waited for a Pastor who could live nearby. Elder Chris Blevins now fills that position.

I am married to the former Frances Morrow and we have three children: Ronald, Karen Murdock, and Lucy Murphy, who are all members of the Church at Stratton.

My first endeavor is to exalt the sovereign God of Heaven and earth, and then to comfort and edify His people.

Never having applied myself to the study of the Scriptures during my youth, I began to search to verify and find descriptions of the various programs that the denomination with which I first joined were engaged in, since I felt very strongly that the Church should use the Bible as her guide. While I was the pastor of an independent body of that denomination, I began to see the beautiful doctrine of the sovereignty of God and began to try to teach it as I would have the revelation. Our group had the usual auxiliaries and programs that we took for granted were instituted by Christ and the Apostles. I searched for the descriptions and the guidelines for these auxiliaries and could find none. I found descriptions of the offices of minister and deacon, but none for a Sunday School superintendent, youth program director, or for segregated classes, so we discontinued these unscriptural functions. Although our standing was measured by our contemporaries to a great extent by the amount we

contributed regularly to the foreign mission board, I felt that surely we needed scripture to guide us in this endeavor, and finding none, we discontinued our contributions to the Board. Thus, we had a group of people meeting without Sunday Schools, without participation in the mission program, and finally without instrumental music, only congregational singing. I then thought we at last had a New Testament Baptist Church; I learned by sad experience that when people come to worship service they expect the doctrine to be compatible with the denomination with which they are identified.

Finally, I realized that if the doctrine, as I saw it, was the truth, the doctrine of our denomination was in complete opposition. If that was the case, then where did I get my authority to baptize, and where did they get the authority to baptize me? I was so convinced that I did not have the authority I told the people I could no longer administer baptism. I again began to search for answers and came to the conclusion that I was completely mistaken in all my views.

After some time I began to read from a Handbook of Denominations and study every tenet of the Baptist churches again. I read the description of the Primitive Baptists, and it appeared to me that they taught the same things I was beginning to receive some light on. I had never met a Primitive Baptist, and didn't know where to start looking, but feel through Divine Providence I found East Side Primitive Baptist Church listed in a small local newspaper in San Antonio. I visited for the first time the group I had always heard referred to as "Hardshells," and a lifetime of expressions could not reveal the joy of hearing the gospel for the first time.

I was baptized shortly thereafter, and on April 22, 1962, was ordained to the work of the ministry in that same Church (now Bethany Primitive Baptist Church). I feel in all earnestness that if we are looking for the truth it will lead us to the Church that Christ set up almost two thousand years ago. I believed then and I believe now that the Church is identified by the name "Primitive Baptist."

ELDER W. T. WALDEN

FROM A RESOLUTION OF RESPECT BY WEST ATLANTA CHURCH PUBLISHED IN "ADVOCATE & MESSENGER:" It has pleased

our Heavenly Father, in His all-wise providence, to remove from our midst our ever faithful and devoted pastor for about thirty-two years, Elder W. T. Walden. He loved his churches and they dearly loved him. He was a pastor indeed. He never tried to introduce any new doctrine or practice, but was satisfied with the goodness of the Lord's house, and with the church he joined nearly sixty years ago. He had the love and confidence of not only the Primitive Baptists with whom he was affiliated, but also of all his fellowmen. Truly a great man in Israel has fallen.

ELDER C. L. WALDRIP

I was born in Lafayette County Mississippi (Northern Mississippi) on January 6, 1898, being the fifth living child of Columbus Levy and Ella Waldrip. My mother died when I was almost three weeks old.



At a very early age, I had serious thoughts about death and eternity, thinking of what would happen to me if I should die. As I grew to manhood I felt a great load of condemnation much of the time, but there were times that I was made to rejoice in hope of God's mercy.

When I was nineteen I volunteered for service in World War I. I was in service over two years, including one year in France. After being discharged in 1919, I traveled quite a bit for four or five years doing different kinds of work, with an unsettled mind as to what I should do in life.

During this time the doctrine of the sovereign grace of God and the church became more and more dear to me. I would endeavor to defend this doctrine every time it was assailed. At one time I was inadvertently drawn into a public debate.

In 1923, I was married to Miss Lucille Tibitts of Thayer, Missouri. To this union was born one daughter. In September of that year I made a trip to see my father in North Mississippi at which time the late Elder Lee Hanks had a two-day appointment at the old home church. My burden to go to the church had become so great that I had to offer myself to the

church. In telling the church of some things I hoped the Lord had done for me I was gladly received, going directly to the water and was baptized by Elder Hanks. I requested a letter and immediately moved my membership to Lanett Church, Lanett, Alabama.

I thought all my burdens were over and indeed for some time it seemed that I was perfectly happy. I read my Bible much, attended church some place every Sunday. At that time the late Elder Prather was my pastor, and a father to me he was. At this time it seemed that I was not burdened so much with an impression to preach, but one day before service Brother Prather came and whispered to me, "Brother Waldrip, I would like for you to introduce the service, I hope you will some time." From that time on for nearly ten years, I bore the greatest burden that I have ever had in my life. I knew that God had all power, yet He was an all-wise God. He could not make a mistake of calling such a sinner as I to preach the gospel. I was ordained deacon in 1927, but got no relief from the burden that I was carrying. Finally I was made willing to try as best I could to Lord helping me. I was ordained to the full work of the ministry by Shawmut Church in Shawmut, Alabama on the second Sunday in June 1935. That very day I baptized my only daughter. Since that time, now over thirty-four years, I have tried to serve from one to four churches. I have baptized nearly one hundred of the Lord's dear children, helped ordain several ministers and many deacons. I have married quite a number of couples and preached many funerals.

I lost my first wife early in 1945. In November of that year, I was married to Miss Mary Jim Arrington of Columbus Georgia. At the time of our marriage, I was her pastor also of most of her family. No man has ever had a more faithful wife or better helpmeet in the ministry. In 1953, I retired from the Civil Service after over thirty-one and a half years to my credit.

I took the minimum age retirement when I might have worked fifteen years longer with a good salary, thinking probably I would be able to serve better in my Master's kingdom. As to that I will let others judge. I fear it has been very little better.

The truths of God, His kingdom and His people have been my life for forty-four years and I hope to finish my little course in the love and fellowship of His dear people.

ELDER CHARLES A. WALKER

I was born on the 23 day of December 1934 to Clarence Ivan and Edna Mae Moak Walker. I am the 7th of 13 living children. The time of



my birth was times of great hardship for the poor people of our land. It was in the time of the deepest depression that our country had known. This distress had worked mightily in humbling our father to submit to the authority of God. During this time both my mother and father became members of Morris Memorial Church in the city of Memphis, Tennessee. Our family grew to adulthood knowing nothing but hard work.

I became a member of the Memphis Church in the year of 1957, being baptized by Elder O. L. Hawkins, one of the pastors of that church. After about one year I was liberated to exercise my gift by the church giving me two Sunday nights in each month. After some few years I took a job in the city of Jackson, TN. I moved my church membership to New Salem Church where I was ordained to the full work of the ministry. I was ordained on the Saturday before the first Sunday in July, 1965 by a presbytery with these ministers sitting in it: Elders W. C. Moak, Harvey Smith, Billy Walker, Hassell Wallis, and H. P. Weathers.

The first church I was called to serve was Little Zion Church in Weakly County, near Palmersville, TN. New Salem Church then called me to replace Elder Hassell Wallis, who had resigned to make room for me. This is the church that my wife was raised in and she had strong ties there. We moved to Middleton, TN about two years later. One year later I resigned the care of this church and with several others we formed together and reconstituted Old Enon Church at Middleton, TN. I have served this church for the last thirty years except for five years that I pastored the church that I first joined in Memphis, TN. This church is no longer in existence.

I have always loved the doctrines of the grace of God. I long for a return of strong-minded men that will preach to the glory of God, and

their message will be “salvation is by the blood of Christ.” I believe that this is the cure for the weakness of our beloved people.

NOTE: Elder Walker passed from this life in March 2000.

ELDER GEORGE WALKER

I was born in Shelby County, Tennessee on November 17, 1943. I am the youngest boy of 14 children. My father and mother were both



Primitive Baptists and took the service of the Lord very serious. I had one brother named David that passed away a few years after his birth. All the rest of my brothers and sisters united with the church sometime in their life with three of us being ordained to the full work of the ministry.

Mississippi.

I united with the church in Martin, Tennessee at the age of 13 years. I was baptized by my Uncle, Elder Clyde Moak who was pastoring a church in

In 1965 at the age of 21 years I moved to Texas feeling that someday I might have to preach, but not willing to give in to those impressions. Then I met the one person in my life, Eleanor Lee Norwood that captured my heart, we dated a few times and were married on July 2, 1966. The Lord has blessed our marriage with two children, a boy and a girl of which both are the members of the church that I now pastor.

Ten years after Eleanor and I were married, I was ordained to the full work of the ministry at Mt. Zion Church in Ft. Worth, Texas. This was on November the 28th. 1976. Since that time I have pastored the church at Blossom, Texas, the church at Farmersville, Texas, Joseph Lane Church in Ft. Worth, and the church in Stephenville, Texas. I am now pastoring New Hope Church in Ft. Worth, Texas and have been there since April 7, 1991.

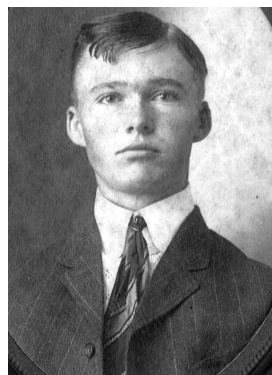
ELDER GEORGE WALKER



Elder Walker was born in Maryland in 1804. He came to Campbell County, Kentucky, with his parents in 1809, from whence he removed to Hancock County, Illinois, in the year 1833. In July 1834 he assisted in the organization of New Harmony Church, he and his wife being charter members. He erected the first church house, which was a building 24 by 30 feet, on his own land and at his own expense. He traveled much among the churches of western Illinois and assisted in the ordination of many ministers. He also served in the Illinois Legislature and acted as pastor of New Harmony Church. His death occurred October 9, 1879.

ELDER GROVER CISCOE WALKER

Elder Grover Ciscoe (G. C.) Walker was born on July 22, 1886 in McNairy County, Tennessee. His parents were Thomas Walker and Lucy Harris Walker. He was the oldest of five brothers. He married Medie Alexander on October 21, 1906. To this union two daughters were born: Parnie Vivian Walker Wilkerson and Zillah Verba Walker Wilkerson (Parnie & Verba married brothers). Elder Walker passed from this life on November 2, 1970.



Elder Walker joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Chapel Hill in McNairy County, Tennessee on August 17, 1917, later moving his membership to Concord Church also located in McNairy County. Elder Walker was ordained to the full work of the Ministry on May 14, 1933. In November 1955, both Elder Walker and wife moved their membership from Concord to Better Hope Church in McNairy County, which he helped to organize in the early 1940's. Elder Walker gave the church its name based on scripture from the 7th Chapter of Hebrews, 19th verse..."for the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did."

Elder Walker believed strongly and strived diligently to walk in the "old paths" as set forth in the teachings of the Bible.

He made a modest living farming, operating a country grocery store and grist mill, sharpening handsaws for the public, and often worked on antique clocks. He was an artist with a pencil. He made many beautiful pieces of furniture including a solid walnut library table, which was always covered with books and papers, according to his daughter, Verba. He lived for a short time in Fordyce, Arkansas and worked for Elder C.H. Cayce, Sr. at his publishing company in the early twenties. He labored in the ministry mostly in West Tennessee after his ordination. He served many area churches in addition to Better Hope, which included Hurricane, Bethel, Gravel Hill, Michie, Middle Fork, and others.

ELDER JAMES S. WALKER

FROM "HISTORY OF MUD CREEK ASSOCIATION" BY JOANN THOMAS ELKIN: Elder James S. Walker is first shown in the 1885 minutes, a messenger from New Hope Church, with his address as Widow's Creek, Jackson County, Alabama. In the September 1893 minutes, a miscellaneous note appears in the minutes: "At the request of New Hope Church we warn all Primitive Baptists against James Walker as being excluded from us but who refuses to give up his Credentials".

ELDER KEMP H. WALKER

I was born July 7, 1918 to Elder A. F. and Alice Walker near the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina. About the middle of my teen years, I believe I met that man that told me all things I have ever done. From that time I have had serious thoughts about a never-ending eternity.

I served as deacon many years, also writing many articles published in several of our papers, feeling all along I would have to go to the pulpit before I passed from this world. I began speaking at about 55 years of age.

ELDER SIDNEY S. WALKER

Elder S. S. Walker was born August 18, 1895, in Carroll County, Virginia, to Primitive Baptist parents.

Following his discharge from the army after World War I, the Walkers moved to the coal fields of West Virginia. There, Elder Walker joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Davy, West Virginia, in 1924. He soon moved his membership to Mt. Zion Church, a member of the Elkhorn Association, in Lex, West Virginia. In this church he was ordained to the ministry on Oct. 21, 1928. Sometime after this, Elkhorn Association and Mt. Zion Church decided to join ranks with those who believed in the absolute predestination of all things. Elder Walker would have none of it, and finally, about 1935, he became a member of Salem Church in North Tazewell, Virginia, a member of the Washington Association. In time, he became pastor of the church.

In 1950, the Walkers moved to Roanoke County, Va. They began attending Stonewall Church at Check, Va., where Elder E. S. Salmons was pastor. In 1961, Elder Salmons collapsed and died in the pulpit. Elder Walker then became pastor of the church and of Floyd Church in Floyd, Va.

Elder Walker served as pastor of both Stonewall and Floyd Churches until his death Sept. 2, 1972.

Elder Walker's life was the church. He loved her so much. He spent his life trying to keep her at peace, and was often referred to as a peacemaker.

ELDER WELDON M. WALKER

Elder Weldon M. Walker was born July 24, 1926 in Mexia, Texas. He married Arlee (Fuller) Walker September 3, 1947. Brother Weldon joined the Gatesville Church 2nd Sunday in June 1954. Elder Hershel Doss baptized him, his wife, Arlee, and five others second Sunday in July 1954.

Brother Weldon was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry in September 1959. Elder Walker began serving as co-pastor of Mt. Zion in December 1959 with Elder Sam Holt. He began serving as pastor of

Mt. Zion in March of 1967 and faithfully served the church until he departed this life in August 1999.

We at Mt. Zion will never forget his ability to preach to us, lead us in the right way and keep peace and tranquility in our church. Elder Walker was faithful in the ministry and was a wonderful example for his flock. He believed in the importance of the gospel with his whole heart and mind. He walked a godly walk before us and radiated peace. His preaching was with power and demonstration of the Spirit . . . always with a smile on his face!



ELDER WILLIAM JOSEPH WALKER

I was born on October 11, 1929 in Memphis Tennessee on Forest Avenue. The stock market crashed a few weeks after I was born. I was the third child of fourteen children, so we knew what hard times were. My father was Clarence Iven Walker; my mother was Edna Mae Moak Walker. I joined the U.S. Navy on February 4, 1948 and was sent to Adak, Alaska. Soon after this I felt to be a poor sinner and in need of a Saviour. Relief came many months later after I learned I couldn't keep the law. Sometime later Jesus revealed to me that Christ Righteousness was transferred to me and that I was free. I was married on September 22, 1951 to Martian Grace Beaver Walker at Madera California by Elder Amos Deskin. We have three children to grace our lives, two boys and one girl. I was ordained to the ministry on the 1st Sunday in July in 1963. I have tried to preach Christ's Gospel in nine different States. My ordination took place during one session of the Chambers Creek Association in Dallas Texas. I hope to die with the good people called Primitive Baptists. This is all my desire. I ask for nothing more.



WRITTEN BY HIS BROTHER, ELDER GEORGE WALKER: On Tuesday morning January 25, 2000, the good Lord called him home to spend eternity in a glorious place called heaven.

Bro. Billy was ordained to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in July of the year 1963 at the First Primitive Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. For the past 37 years he has been preaching that wonderful gospel of salvation by Grace, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and that someday the Lord would call him home to be with the Lord.

There were three of us boys that were ordained to preach. Billy was the oldest of us. There was only one time in our ministry that a church asked all three of us to come and preach and share the pulpit together. This occasion took place only a few months ago at Raleigh Church in Memphis, Tennessee. All three of us was invited along with our nephew Elder Danny Farrell. I am so thankful that we were able to do this before Billy passed away.

NOTE: Elder Walker's last sentence in his last sermon was: "Let the name of Billy Walker die today, but let the name of Jesus Christ live on and on."

ELDER ROBERT WALL

Robert "Bob" Wall married Rowena Bryant, daughter of Lee and Cloe Bryant, in Seattle, WA, in 1947. Mr. Bryant, a member of Log Creek Church in Polo, MO, explained the Doctrine of Grace to his son-in-law who, upon hearing it for the first time, said, "It was as though seeds fell into the ground and took deep root. I had given up all hope of Heaven feeling no amount of good works could redeem one such as I, this was 'good news from a far country' "



Bob was born in Oklahoma City, OK in 1925. His father died the next year. With his brother, Royce, Bob was sent to be raised by relatives near Wellington, TX. At the age of sixteen, Bob joined the U.S. Navy and served in WWII. After the war, Bob went to visit his mother, Lenore Wellborn,

in California. The Bryants had moved to California and it was there that Bob and Rowena met. Bob went to Seattle and joined the U.S. Coast Guard. (In 1962 a heart condition would lead to early retirement as a Master Chief. Years later Bob would succumb during heart surgery.)

After a tour of duty in Alaska, Bob and Rowena moved to San Diego. It was 1950 and they went to Little Bethany Church where Bob heard his first sermon, one by Elder Ralph Fry. That year Bob and Rowena were baptized in the Pacific Ocean. Sister Fry later said that her husband had made a statement on that day, saying he had just baptized a minister. By 1960, encouraged by church elders, including Homer Warren, Bob began speaking in church. In 1966 Bob was ordained and called to pastor Little Valley Church in Holtville, CA, and Little Bethany. Later he was called to pastor Mt. Zion Church in Los Angeles.

Bob also worked at Sea World as a manager. He graduated with honors from Grossmont College, and he was an enthusiastic outdoorsman.

Little Valley announced with sad hearts the passing of their beloved pastor, Elder Robert Wall, age 59, on January 30, 1985.

ELDER OSCAR WALLACE

Was born Sept. 25, 1901 at Calvin, Illinois, the son of Robert and Lorenia (Phillips) Wallace. I was married to Esther L. Doty Oct. 15, 1920, and we have two children, Donald L. and Violet Lorenia, who are both members of the church.

I was received into the church, while living in Detroit, Mich., in 1925, was liberated to speak in 1939 and ordained in 1941. We moved back to Crossville, Ill. in 1943, where I became pastor of four churches, which I tried to serve until Nov. 1965. I am still pastor of my home church, Salem. Was moderator of Skillet Fork Association for twenty years.

ELDER HASSEL WALLIS

Elder Wallis was born on October 27, 1918. His wife, Gertrude, bore him two sons, James K. Wallis and Gerald Wallis. He united with Pine



Hill Church, and was baptized on July 12, 1953. He was ordained by that same church on March 9, 1957, Elder R. J. Townsend officiating. He now resides in Ripley, Mississippi.

ELDER WALLIS WRITES: As I felt God's Spirit leading me into the ministry it was indeed a way that I did not choose nor did I hasten to reveal the calling to others. I never was uncertain about God's plan for me then, and forty years later I am sure I understood God's message to me. My calling was to pastor His Assemblies, therefore I spent most of my years in North Mississippi; I did pastor for seven years in Memphis, Tennessee. I did visit the Lord's Assemblies in Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, and Arkansas.

ELDER JAMES HARRELL WALSTON

I was baptized into the Christian Church when I was 13 years old. I also belonged to the Lutheran Church and I belonged to, and was active in teaching, in the E. U. B. Church. In 1959, I met a Primitive Baptist Minister, Elder James H. Murphey, where I worked. He properly explained the passages of scripture I was having trouble with. I was baptized by this same minister at Evansville, Indiana, January 10, 1960, and ordained at Long Prairie Church near West Salem, Illinois on July 30th, 1961.

ELDER ANDREW JACKSON (A. J.) WANN

FROM "HISTORY OF MUD CREEK ASSOCIATION" BY JOANN THOMAS ELKIN: Andrew Jackson Wann, also known as A. J. Wann, was born July 22, 1845 in north Jackson County, Alabama near Fackler, and died January 20, 1915 in Woodville, Jackson County, Alabama. He joined Mud Creek Church in 1867 and was baptised by Elder James Austill. He

made his first attempt to preach in 1868, but after one or two efforts, he became discouraged and did not make another attempt for a few years. Still laboring under the impression to preach, he taught school for a while and finally, in his desire to overcome this impression, he went out West. His stay in the West was of short duration and on his return he began teaching school again near Woodville and soon began preaching. Elder Wann was ordained at Shiloh Church, located two miles east of Fackler, in 1871 by Elders James Austill, E. R. Berry, and J. P. Ivy.

Elder Wann married Inda P. Bowers, born January 11, 1855; died November 9, 1891, daughter of Luna Bowers and Eliza Dodson. He joined Union Church by letter in 1872 and his wife joined in 1873. They had six children: Annie, Nora, Fred, Maude, J. Will and Bunyan, all of whom joined Union Church. Annie joined in 1909; married Emmett Woodall, who joined in 1940; Nora joined in 1895; married Dea Theodore Thomas who joined in 1909; Fred joined in 1952; Maude married Joe Pruitt and both joined in 1909; Will married Vida Barclay and both joined in 1910; Bun married Lou Driver and both joined in 1933.

After the death of his first wife, Elder Wann married Susan Kennamer (1855-1934) on September 29, 1892. She joined Union Church in 1907. They had one daughter, Ruth, born July 14, 1894 and died July 12, 1900. Elder Wann, his wives, Inda and Susan, young daughter, Ruth, and several of the other children and spouses are buried in Union Cemetery, Woodville, Alabama.

Besides teaching, preaching and farming, Elder Wann was in the mercantile business in Woodville. He was a leader in the Primitive Baptist Church, a humble, God-fearing man who lived a useful life in the service of God. He was loved, honored and respected by all who knew him, always contending for the true doctrine of salvation by grace and opposing error - a true soldier of the cross who stood firm in his convictions.

Elder Wann was moderator of the association from 1882 through 1899 and 1905 through 1909. He preached the Introductory Sermon in 1874, 1881, 1883, 1887, 1890, 1892, 1895, and 1898. In 1902, 1905, 1908 and 1909 he pastored Union, Clear Creek, Bethel and Mt. Pisgah Churches.

The following article was written by Elder Wann's nephew, Ernest Wann, and published in The Primitive Baptist, February 8, 1916:

"Dear Will: (one of Elder Wann's sons)

I received your letter, and am glad that you were good enough to give me an opportunity to contribute to the fund for the monument to the memory of a manly man, a Christian gentleman and a kind and good uncle. As I sit here tonight and think of the years that are gone, I imagine his spirit hovering near, and I can see him as a loving father in the bosom of his family, and can feel him as he swings me, a six-year old, to his knee, there for a ride and a song. I see him again as he watches like a mother over the sick, noting each symptom and sending up a prayer on the wings of each quivering sigh that God would spare the sick one. I remember him as he battled for food, clothing, education and a home for the many that were dependent upon his help and support. I can see him as he fired broadside after broadside into the wrongs of his day, ever standing for the moral uplift of the human race. I have seen him in defeat, not groveling in the dust, but, with an eye of hope and undaunted faith in God, I have seen him caught up, as it were, to the third heaven while preaching a sermon, and have heard the words from his lips that built for a sinner a rainbow of hope on a sin clouded sky. Then I remember the last talk I had with him. He was worried about Bun. I went up to see Bun, and as I came back I met him on the pike and he asked me to get up in the buggy with him. He laid his arm on my shoulder and asked me to come to the church and live right. And the last look I cast on him as he lay cold and still will always be in my memory. He was the grandest piece of clay I have ever seen fashioned in God's own image. The same persuasive little smile lurked at the corner of his mouth, the same fine nose stood out, the firm chin; in fact, every feature denoted character. He looked like one of the dead Pharaohs of Egypt whose picture I used to admire. His rugged honest and Christian character stands out in my memory as a great fortress guarding the weak, and standing as an insurmountable barrier against wrong. I know there is no sweeter memory that steals over your precious soul than that you have lived right, and that you brought no pain to his living heart by any wayward act of yours. Am always glad to hear from you. May God bless you. Ernest. Courtland, Alabama."

ELDER W.J. WARD, SR.



Elder Ward died at age 83 in Houston, Texas in his home. He was a native of Pine Bluff, Arkansas and was ordained to the ministry in 1927. He served churches in the Houston area.

ELDER WILLIAM RAY WARD

Elder Ward was born on May 7, 1931. He was baptized in October 1971 at New Hope Church in Milan, Tennessee. He was ordained as a deacon in May 1973 and was ordained to the ministry in October 1973 at New Hope. He is married to Ola Mae Stephens Ward.



ELDER WARD WRITES: I don't know remember a first time of grace. I always loved and feared the Lord. I suffered with a feeling like I was on a road with two ruts, and I was driving an old model car. I tried to get out of those ruts but never did tell. I went before the church and asked them to pray for me, they gave me my first appointment that night. I was blessed to baptize one brother that I felt that was like my replacement, which he was, three years later. I have ministered mainly in West Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri and Kentucky.

ELDER G. W. WARDELL

FROM AN OBITUARY IN "ADVOCATE & MESSENGER" WRITTEN BY ELDER W. T. EATON: Elder Wardell, a dear, faithful servant of God, passed to the great beyond April 24, 1932, at the home of his son, Roy, near Sunnywide, Wash. He was 79 years old. Brother Wardell was a true Primitive Baptist, sound in the principle of our people and served as pastor of Yakima River Church for two years.

ELDER JOEL T. WARE

Elder Ware died February 28, 1966. He was born November 5, 1924, at Raleigh, Mississippi. He united with Ideal Church at Hattiesburg, Miss., in the summer of 1946 and was baptized by his father, Elder C. N. Ware. He exercised for two years before being ordained December 7, 1958, at New Bethel Church, Tylertown, Miss. Elder Ware pastored several churches, but most dear to him was his own little church, Fellowship, at Pineville, Louisiana, which was constituted under his leadership on April 29, 1961.

Elder Ware was married November 12, 1945, to Miss Sarah Alice Rushing. To this union one daughter, Barbara Ann, was born.

ELDER H. R. WARREN



Elder Homer R. Warren was born Feb. 11, 1908 at Lamesa, Texas to George and Cordie Warren. He fell asleep Aug. 13, 1966 after preaching Saturday afternoon at the Primitive Baptist Association at Shamrock, Texas.

He joined the Primitive Baptist Church in the summer of 1931 in Oklahoma. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry in 1948, at Salida, Calif. and faithfully served the Primitive Baptist Church at Redondo Beach until the time of his death.

He was married to Sister Icie M. Warren, and they had one son Harold Ray.

ELDER J. B. WARREN

James Boyd Warren, the oldest of ten children, was born January 16th 1923, to Louis and Ellen Warren, tenant farmers in southeastern Kentucky. His wild and bitter youth was so marked with violence that he marveled in later years, how “God, in his kind providence, time and again, plucked me as a firebrand from the burning.” James served in the U. S. Navy during World War II, and on December 23, 1950, he married Marcella Jones, his life long companion. To this union was born one daughter.



At this time in his life J. B. Warren began to be burdened with gravity of his sins. He felt condemned and ruined, and cried out to God for relief. He joined a United Baptist Church and in spite of their efforts to “pray him through,” he found no satisfaction. Finally a minister, whom he had befriended, revealed a precious truth that he couldn’t preach from his Arminian pulpit. “James, the fact that you have come seeking, is evidence that God has sent the spirit of His Son into your heart.” He also recommended a book, *Hassell’s Church History*.

In the months that followed, James read *Hassell’s History* and subscribed to every Primitive Baptist paper he could find. He couldn’t stay where he was, and there was only one place to go. On the first Sunday in November 1954 Brother Warren asked for a home with the Hamilton Primitive Baptist Church. His gift was soon manifest at home and abroad, and on November 14th 1959 Elder James B. Warren was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry. Elder Warren served along side his father in the ministry, Elder J. G. Willis, until Elder Willis’ sudden death in 1967.

Altogether Elder Warren served the Hamilton Church for twenty-six years. He spoke out against worldliness in all forms, private, public, and most of all, religious. He preached the gospel freely, laboring with his own

hands, and opposed a salaried ministry, believing that the principle "It is more blessed to give than to receive" applied primarily to ministers.

Elder Warren fell asleep in Christ on June 23rd 1986, after a long battle with cancer.

ELDER JOHN M. WARREN

FROM "THE CHRISTIAN PATHWAY" WRITTEN BY C. E. BRIZENDINE: Elder Warren's efforts to serve God's people has spanned a time period of about 66 years, beginning at age 17 when he first joined Briar Fork Church, and ending with his death at age 83.

Brother Johnny, as he was called by those close to him, never complained of anything. He was always anxious to bear more than his share of the load, and he was loved by little children and adults alike. He was affectionately called "Poppa John" by the children and grandchildren of the family, which was a testimony of their love for him. He was a great example and inspiration to all of us, not only in his church life, but also in his personal life. He was faithful to visit the sick in their homes and in the hospital, and many times he visited others when he himself should have been in bed.

In September of 1978 Elder Warren broke his hip while visiting in and although he, by the help of God, was able to overcome that mishap, he soon began to show signs of something more seriously wrong with his health. Because of his frequent illness our trips together were becoming fewer and fewer.

Brother Johnny's greatest desire was to preach the Gospel to God's people. He never went into the stand relying on his own strength, but always leaning upon the Lord. The Lord blessed him with preaching grace, a clear mind, and a strong voice up until about three months before he died. He became reconciled to the fact that he "had finished his course."

ELDER LEONARD G. WARREN

WRITTEN BY ELDER WAYNE CROCKER: Elder L. G. Warren was born on May 22, 1873 in Perry County Alabama. He was married to Minnie Morton Warren on July 17, 1898. To this union five boys and one girl were born.

Elder Warren received a hope in Christ in childhood. He was called to the ministry at age fifteen. Brother Warren comforted God's children for 79 years. He was with another order until May 1910, at which time he came to Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church in Perry County.

Brother Warren later moved to the Birmingham area and came to Antioch Church by letter November 16, 1919. He was ordained to the ministry there. Mt. Olive Church called him as their pastor, where he served faithfully for 28 years. Many times he would leave home in the early hours of morning, catch a train and then walk many miles to serve the church.

Elder Warren came to Bush Hill Church by letter June 12, 1960. He continued to preach Jesus in power and demonstration of the spirit until his death on November 10, 1967.

ELDER MALACHI C. WARREN

WRITTEN BY ELDER WAYNE CROCKER: Elder Malachi Warren was the oldest son of Elder L. G. and Sister Minnie Warren. He was born on July 21, 1899, apparently in Perry County, Alabama. He joined the Primitive Baptist Church and was baptized in August 1949. He was ordained there in November 1952.

He served Mt. Olive faithfully as pastor for most of the period until his death on May 22, 1966. He often related his many years of rebellion against coming to the church and the great joy he experienced in coming home to the old church.

ELDER DON WASHEK

I was born in New Orleans, LA on Sept. 14, 1954. My full name is Frank Donald Washek, Jr. I have been known as Donnie to my family and Don since I left my parent's home.

I was raised in the Southern Baptist Church having had an experience as early as age eight. I would not refer to it as an experience of grace as the pastor had made a very big deal about accepting Christ as my personal saviour and getting baptized, "before it's too late," at the end of his sermon.

Attending church didn't seem to be of much benefit to me in my teenage years. I could not see how I could possibly get good enough to get into heaven. The messages just didn't seem to make sense. I reached a point when I actually claimed to be agnostic.

When my wife and I married, I desired to attend church, but did not see any conflict with enjoying the worldly entertainment at the same time. Suffice it to say I frequented places that the church would not have approved of. I was not a member at that time and had no intention of becoming one.

In 1983, I was stationed in Pensacola, Florida and had been for a little over two years. On the second Sunday of September 1983, I awoke and I had to go to church. My wife, our three children and I attended Pleasant Home Church, where Elder Ed Morgan was and is the pastor. Elder Burl Phillips was co-pastor and filled 4th Sunday. For the first time I was able to "hear" about grace. I don't know what Elder Morgan's subject was, but it included grace and for the first time I had an earnest desire to learn more.

In January 1984, I began to read my Bible daily. I visited with several of the elders, especially with Elder Joe Floyd who was in his 80's and pastoring Little Flock Church in Molino, FL. We presented ourselves to the Pleasant Home Church for membership. I remember I could not raise my head as the motion was made, seconded, and voted on, fearful that someone might object. The vote was unanimous and we requested for Elder Morgan to baptize us.

My first time introducing services was at Little Flock Church in early 1985. The weather was terrible and there were only about six of us in attendance.

In 1985 I was honorably discharged from the Navy and we moved to Lampasas, Texas. We began attending the Primitive Baptist Church there and asked for a home on promise of a letter from Pleasant Home Church. Elder Carl Watson was the pastor at that time. I began taking part in the service shortly thereafter and in the next five years filled appointments from Colorado City to Lampasas and from Comanche to San Antonio. We witnessed our two oldest children, Clifton and Laurie, baptized by Elder Watson, and our youngest son, Jeffrey, baptized by Elder Jerry Swindell while at the Lampasas Church.

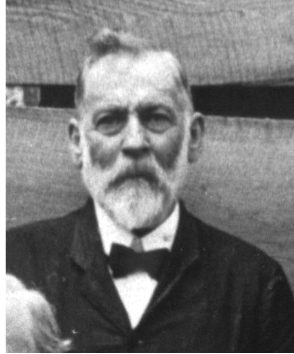
In April 1990, we moved our letter to the Burnet Church where Elder Boyd Chambers was pastor. After a few short months the Willow Springs church in Comanche, asked me to come and fill in for their ailing pastor. I filled second Sunday and Saturday night before regularly until my ordination at the Burnet Church on September 5, 1992, at which time Comanche Church called me for pastor. In 1994, I was called to pastor the Gorman Church. We moved our letter to the Gorman Church that same year.

In September 1996, Elder Boyd Chambers' health had become such that he no longer felt able to pastor the Burnet Church and they called me to fill appointments and consider being their pastor. Feeling the Lord to be in the matter, I took over the responsibilities of pastor in November 1996.

ELDER C. H. WATERS

Elder Charles Waters was born of Samuel and Mary Waters in Hancock County, Md., July 1, 1849, and calmly fell asleep in Jesus January 21, 1920 in his home in Washington City. The early years of his life were spent in teaching. From the school room as teacher, he went to college as a medical student and graduated in medicine at the University of Maryland in 1871, began the practice of his profession in Montgomery County, Md., and was the same years married to Miss Ella Yates, a daughter of Elder P. W. Yates. The following year - 1872 - he and his wife united with the Columbia Church and were baptized by Elder Yates

The gift to the church in Bro. Waters was soon discovered and by encouragement he began exercising his gift in 1878, and in 1880 was ordained by Elders P. W. Yates and L. B. Wynne. Having a large family and wishing to educate them he established in 1886 the "Fairview



Seminary," a school of high reputation and moral standing in which many Baptist girls, as well as those not of Baptist persuasion, were educated. For about a quarter of a century he was connected with *Zion's Advocate*, either as Editor in Chief, or Associate Editor. Dr. Waters died on January 21, 1920. He last preached on June 29, 1919, using John 1:17 as a text.

Elder T. S. Dalton preached the discourse at his funeral, and made these remarks: "The last time that he and I were thrown together in a meeting among our people, in private conversation he said to me: 'Brother Dalton, my time is near. I realize it. I do not expect to remain here much longer. But, there is a joy and comfort in my heart, even in the midst of that thought, and that is, I am just as ready now as I ever expect to be. If I live to be a hundred years old, at the end of that time I shall pass away depending alone on the mercy and grace of God for my salvation and deliverance from sin.'" Elder J. H. Oliphant said of him: "He understood and loved the doctrine. He loved the plain and simple ways of the Baptists, and he had their confidence and he loved them and was not ashamed to be known as an Old Baptist anywhere."

ELDER JOHN T. WATERS

FROM AN OBITUARY IN THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST: Elder Waters, the son of William P. and Sarah C. Waters, was born in Gibson County, Ind., June 25, 1872, and departed this life March 23, 1943. He was united in marriage to Gertrude Brown on Oct. 7, 1896. To this union six children were born, three of whom were called to their eternal home when they were only babes. He united with the Regular Primitive Baptist Church at Evansville, Ind., and soon after began to exercise in public in a preaching way. After a few years he was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry. He was a firm believer in the doctrine and practice of the

Primitive Baptist Church; his only hope of heaven and immortal glory was by the grace of God and the vicarious death of Jesus Christ.

ELDER DAVID WATTENBARGER

I was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on January 25, 1950. I literally "grew up" in the Old Baptist Church. My Mother and Father were both Church members (Cemil and Mary Louise Wattenbarger. My Grandmother, Lois Brown (Cash) was the daughter of Elder Walter Cash, from Missouri. I can still remember, as a young boy, squirming on my Mother's lap, while trying to "endure" what seemed to me to be long Saturday night services at Tulsa. But somewhere along the way, the Lord began His marvelous work in me, and I began listening to the preacher, Elder W. A. Garrett, who was pastor at that time. I must have been somewhere around 10 or 12 when the preaching started to make sense, and I began to start reading the Bible. I can't begin to describe how wonderful it was when the doctrines of Grace started making sense! No, I didn't understand everything (nor do I now), but the Lord saw fit to give me a measure of wisdom, which began to fill my heart. I was baptized by Elder Garrett on Aug 23, 1964, in the baptistery in Hominy, OK, since the Tulsa Church did not have a baptistery.

I can't remember the exact date I first was called on to say a few words from the pulpit, but I was probably about 18-19? I can remember though, the downright fear and unworthiness I felt going into the stand... a feeling I still get to some extent today. Elder Garrett would call on me from time to time, and I also began speaking at the Hominy Church. I remember dear Elder Ray, the pastor at Hominy. He was such a kind, loving, and gentle man, yet he was one of the most knowledgeable ministers I have ever known. I was also very privileged to sit under the teaching of Elder B. Isaacs... and I do mean "Teaching." Elder Isaacs could explain a subject like no one else... until you couldn't help but understand it!

When Elder Ray passed away, the Hominy Church asked me to fill a regular appointment, one Sunday a month. I accepted the appointment, but I told myself that I didn't have a call to the ministry.

I attended the University of Tulsa, where I got a degree in Mathematics Education, in May of 1972. It was there that I believe the

Lord led me to the wonderful woman who eventually became my wife, Kathie. Even while we were dating, Kathie was pleased to attend the Old Baptist Church with me, even though she had been raised as an Episcopalian.

I did some consulting around Tulsa, and eventually, in August 1984, got a job offer, and moved to the Dallas, TX area. Eventually, we found our Church home at Bethlehem, Dallas. The pastor, Elder Dan Newman, was aware that I had been preaching some, and invited me to fill the stand from time to time. It was at Bethlehem, that I finally felt at home in the pulpit, and quit "running" from the ministry. In December 1997, Bethlehem Church called for my ordination to the ministry. I can still remember sitting in conference and feeling so humbled and unworthy! I simply sat there quietly and sobbed... I don't even remember any of the discussion! Then at the Bethlehem Church annual meeting in March 1998, I was ordained to the full work of the ministry.

ELDER CARL EUGENE WATSON

Carl E. Watson was born on March 8, 1929 in Bermuda, Alabama to Leroy and Sallie Watson. He joined the local Methodist Church as a child. In 1950 he met Gwendolyn Annette Bonds. Her parents J.D. and Ora



Mae Bonds were members of the Primitive Baptist Church. Carl started attending church with Gwen. He entered the US Air Force in August 1950 and was a military Police. He married Gwen on March 5, 1952. To this union 4 children were born: Sharon, Ronald, Reba and Pamela and 1 adopted child, Jason. He was stationed at Eglin Air Force Base in

Fla. for several years. In 1962 he was sent to Turkey. While on that assignment, God showed him the Church and the good way of life, even the little church he was to join. He was burdened so with the desire to join the church that he started the paper work to return to the States. In the beginning he was advised that it was impossible to get early reassignment to the U.S. With God, all things are possible. In a short time the Air Force approved his request to be assigned at Eglin AFB for

the second time. Immediately upon returning to the States, he called Elder Joe Floyd, pastor of Ramah Church, asking to join the church and be baptized. Elder Floyd called for a special meeting. Brother Carl joined and was baptized the next day. When he came out of the water he looked 10 years younger. He was then assigned to Dyess AFB, Abilene, Texas where he immediately started attending church. The pastor, Elder J.R. Knight, called on Brother Carl to pray and to open services for him. He had appointments at churches and even preached in homes. He was ordained to the full ministry in May 1968 in Snyder, Texas. He retired from the Air Force in 1970. He felt that the Lord had led him to move his family to Lampasas, Texas. During his years of service to the Lord, he served the churches in Roby, Snyder, Eldorado, Gatesville, Valley Springs, and Lampasas as pastor. He traveled to California, West Virginia, Florida, New Mexico, Missouri, Arkansas and Alabama for appointments. On June 13, 1993, he was called by Our Heavenly Father to come Home. He was serving Valley Springs on two Sundays a month and Lampasas on two Sundays a month as their pastor. He was often called 'The Funeral Preacher' as God gave him a special gift to comfort families in their loss.

ELDER DON R. WATSON

Elder Don Russell Watson was born July 29, 1944, in Clovis, New Mexico, the fourth of six children, to Charlie and Lutisha Watson, both charter members of the Muleshoe (Texas) Church, his dad being a deacon. He was raised on a farm near Muleshoe, Texas.



He was baptized by his uncle, Elder Jimmie Bass, on October 15, 1952, at Muleshoe, Texas.

He married Janice Maria Wheeler on January 9, 1968, at Fort Mitchell, Alabama. Blessed with twin daughters, Donna Raelene and Della Christine.

Brother Watson made his first effort to stand before God's people in 1981 at the Sharon Church in Fenton (St. Louis), Missouri, while stationed there in the service. It was at this little church

that his wife, coming from another order, joined the Primitive Baptists and was baptized by Elder Esley Kirk.

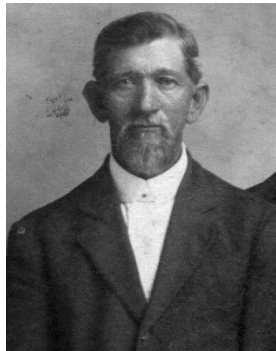
He was ordained to the Gospel Ministry, May 17, 1997, by authority and order of Muleshoe Church.

Having flown aircraft recovery and rescue missions for the US Army during the Vietnam War, he retired as a Colonel of Aviation and Director of National Range Operations, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, in February 1993, after 26 years of military service. He currently is a Continuing Education instructor at West Texas A&M University.

Spending several years on foreign soil, unable to attend a Primitive Baptist Church, studying alone, and yet not alone, has left Elder Watson with a deep abiding desire for peace and fellowship among those that earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Elder Watson currently fills scheduled preaching appointments at Muleshoe, Littlefield, and Wellington, Texas.

ELDER P. T. WATSON



Elder Watson who was born July 7, 1852, was ordained to the full work of the ministry by Mount Tabor Church of Bastrop County, Texas, May 1897. Mount Tabor Church had called for his ordination of both P. T. Watson and R. S. Farrow to the full work of the ministry at the same time; however, P. T. Watson was too sick to make it to the Church House. Elder Henry Kilgore and Deacon Bob Clark met at P. T. Watson's home that evening to conduct the ordination. Elder Watson served churches in Bastrop, Travis, Milam, and Williamson County. He died July 2, 1915.

ELDER E. B. WATTS

Ethridge Buel Watts was born September 11, 1917, in Cullman County, Alabama. His parents were Henry Jesse and Ollie Lee Moon



Watts. According to his own account, "tried several times to get religion" in his youth, but couldn't make it. In October 1938, he married Dessie Bailey, a devout Methodist. On Saturday before the first Sunday in September 1939, he joined Mount Vernon Primitive Baptist Church in Cullman County, Alabama, and was baptized the next morning, along with his mother and father (they were originally Missionary Baptists). When World War II came along, he joined the Marines and served in the Pacific during several severe battles.

Elder Watts made his first effort to speak at Siloam Church in Blount County, Alabama on the 4th Sunday in May 1947, and was ordained the 5th Sunday in April 1950 at Mt. Vernon Church.

In July 1960, his wife died from a stroke and in 1961, he married Lena Murray, whose husband had died a couple of years previously. To his first wife were born four children, two girls and two boys, and to his second wife, two sons.

He pastored several churches in the Mt. Zion Association during his life: Mt. Vernon, Mt. Joy, Harmony, New Lebanon, Zion Hill, New Clear Creek, New Hope, Tuscaloosa, Little Vine, Hardeman (Friendship Association of Georgia).

Elder Watts assisted Elder Wiley Sammons in the writing of *Identity of the True Baptist Church*, and compiled and wrote *A History of the Primitive Baptists of Alabama*, primarily the Mount Zion Association, which was printed in 1979. He was active in his community for many years, serving as trustee on the local school board. He retired from NASA and taught in Vocational and Technical schools in Alabama and North Carolina. He died May 1, 1996, at his home in Boaz, Alabama, having suffered from cancer of the liver. He was allowed to see a glimpse of what was awaiting him before he went home to see his Lord.

ELDER TALBERT WAYMAN

Elder Talbert Wayman, son of William Henry and Mada Wayman, was born in Adair County, southwest of Greentop, MO on Nov. 13, 1915. He was the eldest of a family of three children.



Elder Wayman's love for the Lord, that he knew as a child, never changed. He united with the church at fourteen years of age.

In 1937, he was married to Wanda Fountain, who was deceased a year later; and to this union one son, Donald

Talbert, was born.

On Sept. 28, 1940, he was united in marriage to Clarice Cook, and they had two sons, Gary Lee and Larry William. Elder Wayman's wife and their three sons are members of Hazel Creek P. B. Church. Elder Wayman was ordained to the ministry July 4, 1954.

He served the Old Cedar Church near Columbia, MO; Little Flock at Pleasant Hill, MO; and Siloam Church near Bowling Green, MO.

He passed away in October 1995.

ELDER O. L. WEATHERFORD

CONDENSED FROM THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST: I cannot remember when I first felt the working of the Spirit of the Lord with me. Many times in my childhood days I would feel that no one cared for me and that I was an outcast whom no one loved. I know that I had a dear, loving father and mother and brothers and sisters, but at that time I could not think so.

Time went on until I was nineteen years of age. I joined the Methodist Church and, of course, to be one of them, I went through their

soul-saving process at the mourner's bench, and, as they say, "came through saved." During all this time I was, in my heart, a believer in the Old Primitive Baptist doctrine, although I had never heard one preach. But father had the book, *Labors and Travels of Elder Lemuel Potter*, and he would often read it to the family while gathered around the fireside.

My brother, Steven, and I drove to the Old Baptist Church, a distance of nine miles, in a buggy on Saturday before the first Sunday in March, 1909, where I heard for the first time in life the precious old gospel as it fell from the lips of dear Elder Tommy E. Hopper. He took for his text Rev. 3:20. Of all the preaching I ever heard, I know my hungry soul heard it that day. I sat there half crying and half laughing for joy. When the invitation was given for membership, I offered myself and was received. So I left the world with its gay banners and fashion and went with the despised few. I am still in their sweet fellowship.

Soon another burden came upon me. I felt the duty of telling the sweet story to others, and was liberated to speak in public at our February meeting in 1911, and was ordained to the full work of the gospel in July 1920. I have the care of three churches. One is my home church, which Elder Knight and I jointly pastor, one is Mt. Pleasant, White County, Ill., and the other is Bethel, Farmersville, Ind.

ELDER WILFRED PAUL WEATHERS, SR.

Elder Weathers was born in Kendrick, Miss., near Corinth, on August 7, 1904. He joined Little Flock Church near Burnsville on



Saturday before the third Sunday in July 1929 and was baptized by Elder J. W. Hardwick. He was ordained at Mars Hill Church near Hodges, Ala., on May 6, 1934 by a presbytery composed of Elders G N. Gober (Mod.), J. E. Shackleford and Delian Spence.

Elder Weathers labored in the area of the junction of the states of Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee. He preached in many of the churches in this area. He was assistant pastor with Elder Townsend at Little Flock. He was pastor at Better Hope near Adamsville Tennessee; Pine Hill near Ripley,

Mississippi; and Old Prospect in New Albany, Mississippi, where he and his wife were members.

He died on August 23, 1986 at his home at Tishomingo, Mississippi, of congestive heart failure and a massive stroke, three weeks after his wife passed away.

ELDER CRATE COLUMBUS WEAVER

Elder Weaver was born June 30, 1915, to Benjamin H. and Laura R. Weaver in Gilmer County, Georgia. He was the oldest of four children.



He loved the great outdoors creation of God and so much enjoyed walking through the mountains or on the banks of the clear, flowing streams. Even when he was no longer able to walk in his beloved mountains, someone would carry him out, his hounds would be turned loose, and he would listen to the chase.

On May 10, 1941, he was married to Miss Lexie Weaver and to this union six daughters and three sons were born.

On August 26, 1950, after carrying a burden for years, he offered himself for membership in Tickanetley Church and was joyfully received.

The church soon recognized a gift in Brother Weaver and on May 24, 1952, granted him license to speak wherever God, in His providence, might cast his lot. On February 26, 1955, he was ordained to the full work of the ministry and spent his remaining days proclaiming the eternal truths of God's word.

He served his home church and some others with zeal, humility, and dedication. Even when that dread affliction - brain tumor - had made him almost incapacitated, he would get to church and come tottering down the aisle, smiling at everyone.

One month before his passing, one of his younger daughters was baptized. He was able to attend this service, but had to stay in the car. This daughter, Cathy, wanted daddy to baptize her, but it was not to be. On April 17, 1981, he passed from this vale of tears to that home where there is no night.

ELDER H. LANE WEAVER

H. Lane Weaver was born in 1898 and passed away October 24th, 1997.

Elder Weaver joined Tickanetley Church of Ellijay Georgia on July 25, 1925 and was ordained to the full work of the ministry on November 11, 1950. He moved his letter to Friendship Church of Ringgold Georgia on March 26, 1967. He loved singing and traveled all across the mountains of North Georgia and surrounding areas attending singings and preaching the gospel. Elder Weaver, a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ and a home minister of the Marietta association, passed away on October 24, 1997 at the age of ninety-nine.

ELDER HOWARD WEAVER

FROM "GOSPEL APPEAL:" Elder Howard Busch Weaver was born July 20, 1912, in Berrien County, Ga., to Willie Dilburn Weaver and Francis Juanita. He passed from the scenes of this life on June 3, 1985. On August 27, 1932, he married Sarah Ouida Knight, who survives him. To this union were born 4 children. Brother Weaver united with Concord Church, near Sparks, Ga., June 4, 1961, and remained a faithful member there until his death; serving the church as pastor for the last 6 years. He was baptized July 2, 1961. He was ordained to the ministry on Dec. 4, 1964, having been called to pastor Rocky Creek Church and Refuge Church. The next year (1965) he was also called to serve Pleasant Grove (Long Bridge) Church and Oak Grove Church. He served Rocky Creek for 5 years and served Refuge, Oak Grove, and Pleasant Grove for 10 years. He also served Red Bluff Church for a number of years. Refuge Church near Pearson, Ga. again called him to serve them in 1980 and he was pastoring Refuge and his home church, Concord, at the time of his

passing. During the twenty years of his ministerial labors, he baptized 80 into the church; performed 31 weddings and 288 funerals.

Brother Weaver visited extensively among the Primitive Baptist Churches of Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, and other states, and was well known and well loved in the areas he visited. He was an excellent pastor, and he and Sister Weaver spent many hours and traveled many miles to visit the sick and shut-ins.

The first weekend in June 1985, he attended services at Concord on Saturday and Sunday and also at Cat Creek Church on Saturday night; spent Sunday evening and all day Monday visiting the sick; laid down to sleep Monday night and without any evident pain or affliction, quietly passed on into the presence of a loving and merciful God.

ELDER SAMUEL WEAVER

FROM "PRIMITIVE MONITOR:" I was born December 28, 1836, in Monroe County, Indiana. My father died when I was six years old, and my grandfather raised me. I was taught to do right. I tried to live a good life and thought I was as good as anyone. While I was sailing along so smoothly I was reading Bunyan's experience, I saw he was in line with me, but when he heard those two old sisters telling what God had done for them, how he had shed his love in their hearts and took away all their sins, and they loved the Lord with all their might; how he had changed their hearts and given them a heart of flesh; and how old things had passed away and all things were new, this was something new to him and also to me. I went to bed with a heavy heart. What if I am wrong? I have never felt this change of heart. I am still a sinner in the sight of God.

This was in March 1858. God's Spirit touched me and made me alive to my lost condition. Then I began to pray for mercy, and to the Lord to have mercy on me and to forgive all my sins. I was in such trouble I could not rest day or night. I could not eat. Sister Burch asked me several times if I was sick. "You do not eat as usual." I would say, "No," but oh, that load of sin seemed to sink me lower and lower. I thought I was the chief of sinners. How can God be just and save me?

On the first Monday of May, Jesse Burch and I went to plow. We divided the land so I would be by myself. I felt I could not live much

longer. Not one good thing could I find to present to the Lord for mercy. My eyes were running with tears. I said, "Here, Lord, I am a helpless sinner, save or I perish; have mercy for Jesus' sake." Then I felt my sin all gone, and I felt as free from sin as though I never had committed one. I felt God's love in my soul and felt I loved him with a pure heart. This was the first Monday in May, about 9 o'clock A.M. On the third Saturday in May I went to Hebron Church and asked for a home with them, gave a short history and reason for a hope, and was received and baptized the next day, which was Sunday.

In 1859 I moved to Taylor County, Iowa, and was married, in 1865, to Charlotte Stuart. We organized a church and Brother Carmichael, a brother of C. J. Carmichael, was our pastor. In 1869 we moved to Jefferson County, Kansas, and in 1874, I was ordained an elder in the Regular Baptist Church. Now, brethren, I have been with them for fifty-two years without any trouble with any brother, and today am just as strong in the doctrine of the Baptists as ever. There is no church of Christ but them.

ELDER THOMAS WEAVER



FROM "THE GOSPEL MESSENGER" 1926, BY ELDER T. W. BAKER: Elder Thomas Weaver was born May 23, 1845; departed this life July 23, 1919. Received a hope in Christ September, 1867, joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Mossy Springs, Union County, Tenn., in November, 1868, and was baptized in May, 1869, by Elder William Bridges.

He was ordained to the full work of the ministry May 1872, by Elders William Williams and William Bridges. For a number of years he was moderator of the Powell's Valley Association and was very highly esteemed by the brethren.

He was married to Adaline Wilson December 1865. To this union two children were born. Adaline died in 1870.

On December 8, 1872, he was again married to Saloma Catharine Shown, who preceded him to the home of the blessed June 3, 1918. To this union sixteen children were born, seven sons and nine daughters.

He was a faithful and devoted Christian. He was true to his church, sound in doctrine, always contending for the principles of the doctrine of Christ, yet with much love and good will to all.

He enlisted in the Federal Army, Company G, 7th Reg., Tennessee Mounted Infantry, November 8, 1864, and was honorably discharged July 27, 1865.

The last few months of his life were spent with his daughter (Mrs. M. M. Rice), where he received all the care and attention that could be administered, but to no avail. During his stay here I (Elder T. W. Baker) spent many nights with him. One night he called and had me put him on his chair and wanted to talk a while. The following are a few words in as short a manner as I can arrange them.

"Brother Tom, we have spent many days together in talk and preaching, and I have often doubted being God's servant and wondered if I had been too strict in contending for these principles, but now I know that I am His servant and that these principles are the truth. My way is clear, there's nothing in my way, and I know that my Redeemer liveth. It doesn't seem that heaven itself could be any sweeter than these moments were to me. If it is, it will be sweet, indeed. I don't want to complain or think my lot hard, but if it were only God's will I wish the end now."

We only wish all of God's dear children could have heard him.

ELDER CLAUD E. WEBB



Elder Webb was born near Vermont, Illinois, on April 5, 1893. He was married in December 1914 to Winnie Mae Bandle, and they were blessed with four daughters and two sons. In 1924 after searching for the true church for some time, they presented themselves for membership to Mt. Zion Church near Astoria, Illinois, and were baptized by Elder C. P. Beadle. Elder Webb was ordained to the ministry by Mt. Zion Church

in August 1926, the acting presbytery being Elders C. P. Beadle and Baxter Hale, and Deacons James Allen, Joshua Ray, George Conlee, and Martin McFadden. In 1927, Elder Webb was called as pastor by the Salem Association churches, and he moved with his family to Hancock County and united with Providence Church by letter. He served seven churches as pastor, five of them being in the bounds of Salem Association, one in Waverly, Illinois, and one in Chicago. He passed away August 31, 1965.

ELDER D. SMITH WEBB

3/05/1855 - 4/09/1938. Elder Daniel Smith Webb was the son of Elder Isaac Webb. He married Mary Ellen Edwards in 1873, and they had fourteen children. She died in 1908, and he married Lula Howell, who survived him.

Elder Webb said that before his birth, his mother dreamed that he was a boy and his name was Daniel, for he should have "the gift of interpretation."



He joined Fellowship Church in 1875; he began preaching in 1886, and was ordained in 1887, by ten elders whom he and his wife had seen in dreams four years before. He baptized more than 800 people during his ministry.

On one occasion, when Elder Webb was visiting away from home (probably related to preaching appointments), he arose during the night and left, explaining that he knew he was needed at home. Sure enough, when he arrived, he discovered that some of the family was very ill. Over two years before his death, he dreamed of his death date. He told family and friends of this. He was not ill immediately prior to death. After his death on the specified date, a complete description of his dream and its interpretation was found in his Bible, written in his handwriting.

ELDER ISAAC WEBB

WRITTEN BY ELDER P.G. LESTER, RECOPIED BY HIS GRANDSON, A. L. GOAD FROM FELLOWSHIP (SNAKE CREEK) CHURCH RECORDS: Elder Isaac Webb was born in Grayson County, Va., November 26, 1833, and departed this life June 2, 1913. He was a son of John and Hannah Webb and at the age of seven years, his mother, who was a mother of Israel, taught him to read the Scriptures.

He was married to Miss Malesia Martin on June 17, 1852, and to this union there were born unto them nine children, four sons and five daughters.

Early in the civil conflict between the states he entered the Army and served in the prime of his young manhood as a private and as a First Lieutenant of his company until his commander, General Johnson, gave up his sword at Bentonville, N.C., whereupon he returned to his home, his companion and little ones, resumed his former citizenship and domestic relations of life, and at once began to build up and replenish a devastated and smitten country, and to provide for himself and his household. During his citizenship he served the people as magistrate, and as Judge of his County Court, and in the House of Delegates of Virginia, and as County Treasurer, and as teacher in the public schools.



Brother and Sister Webb joined the church at Fellowship in 1857, where they lived together in the peaceful fellowship of the church for fifty-six years. In 1865 he was licensed by his church to preach with such ability as the Lord might be pleased to afford and in 1868, he was ordained by Elders: Thomas Dickens, Amos Dickerson, Thomas S. Vass, James Thompson and John C. Hall, to exercise in the full functions of the gospel ministry. He served New River Church, the mother church of New River, Smiths River and Indian Creek Associations. He was also pastor of Harmony Church, from which St. Zion and Little Vine Churches were constituted. He also served as pastor the churches at Concord, New Hope, Fellowship and Laurel Fork, in the New River Association;

Stewart's Creek of Fishers River Association, Martin of Zion Association, and he labored much among other churches.

Upon the resignation Of Elder Thomas Dickens, in 1886, Elder Webb was chosen Moderator of the New River Association, in which capacity he served faithfully until his death, laboring earnestly for the peace and good of the cause.

Elder Webb was truly a genial old Virginia gentleman, and his pathway was ever radiant with the sunshine of good cheer, as of peace on earth and good will to men. He was full of the spirit of hope fullness and kindly greetings.

He was much gifted in psalm and hymn and spiritual song, and was truly a sweet singer in the Israel of our God.

Seven days before his death he said to his son, Elder D. S. Webb, "Put up my sword, I cannot go forth." And again "I cannot feel safer than I have felt." For some years he claimed that all fear and doubt of future happiness had left him, and that he felt assured of his heavenly calling. The last request he made was, "Smith, can't you cite me back to where I belong?" He belonged to the church at Fellowship; and to cite him back to it would be to tell the brethren and sisters there to strive for peace and to let brotherly love continue, as he had taught them.

ELDER J. A. WEBB



I was born three miles west of Lexington, Henderson County, Tennessee, on February 11, 1870. My father was William J. Webb and my mother was Adiline (Dunri) Webb. I had two brothers, Isaac E. Webb and J. Lee Webb. I had one sister Mary Frances.

When I was eleven years of age, in the year 1881, my mother died, leaving four of us children and our dear father in sorrow and grief. Indeed we could say in the language of the poet, "Oh, Dear Mother,

how we miss you."

Our father kept us together, the best he could, until the year 1887, when it pleased the Lord to call him by death, leaving us alone in a very poor country. I then worked a while for a Mr. Joe White at \$6.00 per month. After this, I lived a while with my older brother, I. E. Webb, who was almost six years older than I, and who had married in the meantime.

In the year 1890, I went to live with my Uncle John Webb, who lived in our old home place. In the early part of the year 1891 I entered the M. and F. School of Lexington, Tennessee, and attended the remainder of the term, and in the autumn term until Christmas.

At that time my grandfather, E. B. Webb, was taken ill with pneumonia, and died. During his illness, his brother, Elder S. W. Webb, and his brother's son, Dr. A. L. Webb, both from Texas, came to see Grandfather in his last hours. So, when Uncle Sam and Cousin Abner Webb got ready to return to Texas, I came with them to Texas in 1892.

I worked on the farm here in Texas for three years, and in the autumn of 1895, I entered the Blue Ridge School under the principalship of Professor C. F. Trotter. I attended two terms at Blue Ridge, and then I taught one term of school at Barnett School, just south of Blue Ridge.

In the autumn of 1898, I entered the Leonard School at Leonard, Texas. There I finished for a first grade State Certificate to teach school. (This was the top certificate the state offered--not a certificate to teach first grade.) After this I taught at the following places: Johnson School, Cross Roads, McKinney, all in Collin County, and in Lamar County I taught at Powderly, Madill, Craddock, and Eureka, and again in Collin County at Arnold. My teaching extended over a period of 12 years.

Now to the religious phase of my life. My father was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church and my mother was a Methodist by name, although she attended the Primitive Baptist Church regularly, and I have heard her shout praises to God many times as she listened to Primitive Baptists ministers.

I professed a hope in Christ when I was 17 years old, before I came to Texas. Because I had been influenced and told by others that the Primitive Baptists taught, and believed, that God predestinated all things both good and bad, I united with the Missionary Baptists, and I attended

regularly. But from some cause I didn't feel satisfied, but kept on going. Then one day my grandfather asked me if I believed that I was instrumental in saving people for Heaven and Immortal glory. I said, "I most assuredly do not." Grandfather said, "Your preacher does, but you just watch, pray and study God's word."

So, the very next Sunday I filled my seat at church, and to my surprise, our pastor went into the stand, and do you know he started off by saying almost exactly what my grandfather pointed out to me--with things such as, and he pointed me out to the congregation, and said, "Now you take this young man he is here every time, he doesn't miss and he is sure for Heaven"--and so on.

Well, I was really troubled, my heart was so burdened. The next Sunday Elder J. E. W. Jenkins was to be at Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, so I went and he explained that some people accuse us Primitive Baptists of believing and preaching that God predestinated everything both good and evil. He said, "Now we don't believe a word of it, and if anyone wants to question me on this, I'm ready for them." Then he read in the 2nd Chapter of Ephesians, 1st verse through 10th verse.

So when this dear old servant of God showed so vividly these two salvations, I was shown the dear old Primitive Baptist Church, and through the grace of God I shouted praise to God all over the place. I don't know why, but I didn't join the Church that day. I united with Providence Primitive Baptist Church in Collin County, Texas, in the year 1894. I was baptized in Arnold Creek near the Church, by Elder J. H. Gotcher, the 1st Sunday in March of that year.

I was married to Miss Lou Annie Aulds near Ladonia, Texas, on November 16, 1902. We were blessed with 9 children, 6 of whom are still living. They are: Mary Rushing, Lou Vada Webb and four sons; Willie, Dalton, Luther, and Alton. We have 18 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

I was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry the first Sunday in June 1903, by a presbytery of two ministers--Elders J. H. Gotcher and J. W. Herriage, and two deacons--Brothers J. N. Butler and Isaac E. Webb. I have served as pastor to all the way from one to four churches at the same time, teaching some of the time and also farming between Sundays. Usually I left home Friday afternoon and returned late Sunday night or early Monday. The brethren and sisters have been so very good

to me, even in controversy and sad misunderstanding. I feel that through the divine mercy of God, He has enabled me to keep sight of His true Church.

I have tried many times to comfort hearts both old and young in funeral requests. I have walked, gone on horseback, in a buggy, ridden a bicycle, gone on bus and by train to serve God's children. The weather was never too cold nor too hot for me to go. I have left my dear companion sick many times. She would always say, "Albert, you go---we will be all right." I have left home when some of the children would be sick, but through the grace of God I was blessed to return and find them alive. However, we lost our first two children, also a baby girl in 1923, but neither time was I away from home. Many times God has opened the way for me to go when it seemed impossible.

I love the Lord's people everywhere, and I have as much zeal for God's Church, the dear Primitive Baptist Church, which I believe with all my heart that God set up right here on earth, as I ever did, and if I were at church and someone united and requested me to baptize them, I'd try my best to grant their request. I long to see God's children who linger outside the Church come in and live and labor just as the Lord commanded.

NOTE: Elder Webb passed from this life on April 7, 1970 at the age of 100 years and 2 months.

ELDER L. E. WEBB

FROM AN OBITUARY IN THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST: Elder Leonard Elijah Webb, youngest of twelve children of Elder William Dorrey and Harriet Williams Webb, and grandson of Elder Elijah and Eliza Baker Webb, was born in Atlanta, Ga., on June 25, 1896. He was married to Miss Connie Malone on August 11, 1914. To this union were born three children. His first wife died in 1924. On April 16, 1941, he was married to Miss Audie Parris, who has proved a blessing to him, his children and his grandchildren.

In early life he joined a church of another faith and order, realizing the entire time that he was not in the church of the true and living God. In 1943, he moved near Bethany Church, in Atlanta, and began attending regularly. He united with them in June of that year and was baptized by

Elder J. A. Monsees, as were his wife and sister, R. D. Dutton. Later he moved his membership to Hardeman.

Bethany soon felt that the Lord had blessed them with a gift; accordingly he was liberated to the stand. On August 1, 1948, he was ordained to the full work of the ministry. Despite a bad heart condition, he served several churches as long as he was able. His last three years were spent almost entirely at home.

On May 18, 1958, just a few hours before his daughter and her two sons were to leave for Germany, he was stricken with a heart attack, which proved fatal in a few minutes.

Brother Webb was a sweet singer in Israel; a most devoted husband and father; a staunch, devout Primitive Baptist, who never compromised with error, yet bore quietly and patiently with those not in accord with his views. His soft voice, his gentle eyes, his kind expression combined to show his heart was full and running over with love for all humanity, and especially for his brothers and sisters in the Lord. In return these qualities and other Christian graces endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. His was a life worthy of emulation. He spoke no ill of his preaching brethren and never encouraged others to do so.

ELDER MIKE EDWIN WEBB



Mike Webb was born on July 6, 1965 in Dallas, Texas to Elder Larry and Sister Carole Webb. He was ordained on February 19, 2000 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Presently, he is pastor of Gorman Church in Gorman, Texas.

ELDER RAYMOND WEBB

Elder Webb was born in Summum, Fulton County, Illinois, on November 4, 1924. His family moved to Bentley, in Hancock County, in 1927, when his father, Elder C. E. Webb, began pastoring churches in the Salem Association. He was baptized into Providence Church in the spring of 1940, and with the exception of military service during World War II, has lived in this community since that time. In August 1945, he married Betty White, of near Bentley, and they have been blessed with four sons and one daughter. In May 1946, he was requested to serve Friendship Church as pastor. Elder Webb was ordained to the ministry at Providence Church on November 1, 1947, the presbytery being composed of Elders C. E. Webb, S. L. Pettus, E. R. Barnes, Paul A. Brown, W. A. Holmes, J. H. Hardy, J. O. Symmonds, Floy Gross, O. B. Prior, C. O. Johnson, and Deacons D. W. Burnam, V. E. Butler, W. H. Wayman, Audy F. Collier, J. D. Allen, Ham Cox, Earl W. Poland, G. C. Gardner and Louis K. Curtis. He was chosen moderator of the Salem Association at the 1960 session, and continues to serve in that capacity at the present time. He has served as pastor of six churches and is presently the pastor at Providence Church, near Plymouth, Illinois, and at Mt. Salem Church near Atlanta, Missouri.

ELDER THOMAS LARRY WEBB



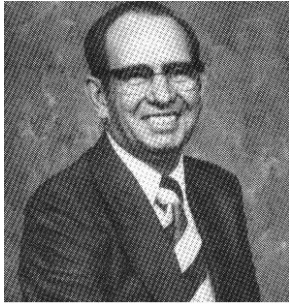
in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Larry Webb was born on July 28, 1944 in Greenville, Texas to Elder Luther and Sister Virginia Webb. He was ordained on September 28, 1974 in Oklahoma City, OK

He was pastor of Union Church, Grandfield, OK for 11 years and Bethlehem Church, Oklahoma City, OK.

Presently, he is pastor at Indian Oaks Church

ELDER THOMAS LUTHER WEBB



Luther Webb was born on January 5, 1919 in Collin County (Celeste), Texas. He passed from this life on July 7, 1985. His parents were Elder J. A. and Sister Annie Webb

He was ordained on September 29, 1963 in Dallas, Texas. He served Little Vine Church in Austin, Texas from 1964 to 1971. He also served as pastor of Fireside Church in Dallas, Texas.

ELDER T. L. WEBB, JR.

Elder T. L. Webb, Jr. was born in Thornton, Arkansas November 30, 1930, the youngest child of Elder Thomas L. and Mattie Browning Webb. His father was associated with Elder C. H. Cayce in the publication of *The Primitive Baptist* at the time of his birth and they lived across the street from the Cayce Publishing Company.



In 1934 they moved to Eldorado Arkansas where he started to school and at the age of 7 united with the Friendship Church there and was baptized together with his sister Doris, age 10, by their father.

He first felt the burden to preach the gospel when about 14 years old. His father was preaching on this occasion and an impression came over him that he would have to do the same thing he was doing. He prayed for the burden to be removed and he did not make an effort until he was 18 years old. He was ordained to preach May 20, 1951 (age 20) at New Hope Church, Milan, TN where he has pastored for over 40 years. He has served several churches over his many years in the ministry, including

Mud Creek and Pleasant Grove in Carroll Co. TN, Concord in Weakley County, TN, New Antioch in Henderson Co. TN, Old Gibson and Rutherford Churches in Gibson County, TN, and Hurricane Church in Hardin County. At this writing he serves his home church in Milan full time.

For 8 years he was editor and publisher of *The Christian Pathway* and is presently trustee of the B. D. Bryant Memorial Library, a large collection of religious books. Besides his ministerial duties, he has been a bookkeeper for various firms and served as City Recorder of Milan for a few years, City Alderman and Vice Mayor of Milan.

He was married to Edith Chandler August 8, 1954, and they are blessed with 4 children and 7 grandchildren. He baptized his wife before their marriage and has baptized 3 of his children.

The ministry he considered a burden that could not be overcome without performing his duties. He is the 5th generation in his family who have preached for the Old Baptists. His father, T. L. Webb, Sr.; Grandfather, J. G. Webb; Great Grandfather, S. W. Webb; and great great grandfather, Daniel G. Webb.

ELDER T. L. WEBB, SR.

According to the family record, I was born Jan. 15, 1874. A little, two-room log cabin, yet standing by the roadside near old Shady Grove Church and not far from the old town of Rutherford, Tenn., marks the sacred place of my nativity.

My father, Elder J. G. Webb, was born in Tennessee. I do not think it out of place, in writing a sketch like this, to say that I am proud of the record of his wonderful life, especially in defense of the cause of his Master, which is well known to some of the readers of this paper, as he was editor of the *Baptist Trumpet* about twenty-two years. He preached his last sermon on his dying bed. He was a son of Elder S. W. and Nancy Webb, who were also born in Tennessee. They were both Primitive Baptists. Grandfather Webb, although not as widely known as some in his day, it is said had few equals in the knowledge of church history, as well as the Bible. He was plain, outspoken, yet unassuming.

My mother's name before she was married was Louisa Taylor. She was a daughter of Elder Leonard and Sallie Taylor, who lived in Middle Tennessee at the time of their marriage.



I will mention one occasion of life that I often resort to with comfort and hope, although it seemed to leave me a poor cripple for life and so strangely affected and impressed me that I seemed to be broken up and ruined. My father was preaching on this occasion about the sufferings of Christ and describing the cruel treatment and persecutions that Christ so freely bore for the sake of poor sinners. I was just a lad, but from some cause my little soul went out in such sympathy and love for the innocent and harmless Son of God that my eyes became blinded with tears. Although I felt sure that father saw me shedding tears while he was preaching, for he seemed to be looking at me all the time, yet I resolved to try to keep all these things hid. One sad evening, as the shades of night were closing in, I came in home, so cast down and bothered that it seemed I could hardly live. Father was sitting on the porch alone. As I walked up and looked at him I thought if I had a friend in all the world it was he. He motioned for me to come to him and then said he wanted to talk to me. He began, not by asking me questions, as I expected, but by relating his experience and impressions to preach the gospel. Finally, when I could bear it no longer, and broke down in tears, he said, oh, so tenderly and lovingly, "Son, I have learned by experience that the only way to get any relief from these impressions is by trying to follow them and in doing the best I can." This was the first time he ever privately advised me to live in the service of God.

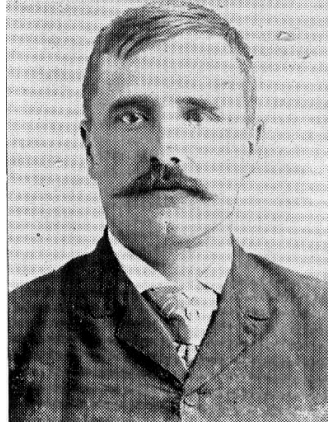
On the fourth Sunday in July 1896, I went before Harmony Church, near Bonham, Texas, and was received into their fellowship. I will never be able to describe my joy on that occasion. I was baptized the next day by Elder J. W. Herriage.

I was ordained to the work of the ministry April 26, 1902, by the authority of Harmony Church, Bonham, Texas, by the following presbytery: Elders J. G. Webb, J. W. Segler, R. C. Taylor, M. L. Barrett, J. W. Herriage, P. D. Ausmus and Willie L. Barrett. This was 39 years ago. My hair is now tinged with gray and I know that I am nearing the end of the journey. I am not tired of the service and I desire above all things else,

if I am not deceived, to finish my course with joy and have an honorable discharge from the battlefield. Yet I can truly say, in hope of final victory over the grave, that I am glad I am born to die.

ELDER W. R. WELBORN

FROM "PRIMITIVE MONITOR:" I was born July 31, 1859, in the western part of Surry County, North Carolina. I was reared to manhood in extreme poverty, and in one of the most obscure parts of our nation.



My mother died when I was only about ten years old, and left a family of six little children, and none of them at the time of her death were able to do any labor except myself, I being the eldest. The next oldest was a poor, helpless mute boy two years younger than myself who died about the age of fourteen.

My father was an afflicted and disabled man, being diseased from a child, and therefore not able to work. I had to work outdoors in the daytime in summer to try to make something for us all to eat, and also had to take those little children with me to work, and had to prepare our meals three times a day over the hot fire. I also had to chew everything my little helpless brother ate, and had to redress him two or three times a day. I had to wash, patch, etc., for us all of nights during summer months, not having any daytime in which to do such work. In daytime my father was gone from home so much of this time that we passed many lonesome hours all alone.

When I look back over the dark, isolated and most rugged road which I passed during my youthful days I feel sad, and yet I love to look back and think it all over. O! How admirably wonderful is the loving kindness and providential care of the Almighty, as displayed in the preservation of us all. For while we were all so lonely and forsaken so far as humans are concerned, God was present with us. And nothing could befall us without God's permission. No one ever came to see us, to see whether we were dead or alive. The general excuse that the people made

for not visiting us was that my father was such a wicked, sorry man. But I believe that they were lacking in charity. I cannot describe what I suffered during those cold and stormy winters, for I was eighteen years old. O! How piercing those sharp winds felt to my thinly dressed body when I would leave my little shivering brothers and sister, and sometimes Father, and go to the woods for fuel to keep from freezing. When I would return with my turn of wood on my shoulders, I was so cold that I would be benumbed all over, Now when I look over our rugged road, I am made to wonder that I am still alive. But my wonder ceases when I consider that the omnipotent hand of a loving Father has led me through this terrible desert and preserved me from its numberless dangers.

I was brought up in great ignorance, both of natural and spiritual things. I knew but little of God until after I had grown to manhood. My parents were poor in this world's goods, and they seemed to have no thought nor care for God and His cause. They never went to any church services. They did not visit their neighbors; neither did their neighbors visit them. So I grew up in total ignorance of the ways and customs of the rules of the land as well as the church. I was totally ignorant of Jesus Christ until He was revealed to me. I only knew of God by two appellations, "Lord," and "Good man" and until Jesus was revealed to me as my Savior, I had heard my parents call Him only by those two names, but they seemed to know nothing about Christ in His nature. I have no recollection of any one speaking the names "Jesus" or "Christ," until after Jesus revealed Himself to me.

Now, when my father had told me of many sinful practices of mankind which seemed very pleasant to me then, I thought that I would work very hard, would save a portion of my earnings, and when I became a man I would buy suitable clothing, and then I would go out into the world and take my pleasure in all sins common with wicked young men. But the hand of Omnipotence blighted all my expectations. I became greatly burdened, and my troubles were more than my soul could contain. I felt myself to be the greatest sinner on earth, not even fit to be the companion of the most vile of all reptiles. I knew nothing of what men or women did when at prayer, what position they occupied, or what words they used; really I did not know whether anybody ever prayed at all or not, for I had never seen or heard anyone pray. But I believed that others had surely called upon the Lord to save them, so when I went out to pray. I would most commonly fall on my face. I dared not utter a word, for I thought surely I was the greatest sinner then living, but my very

breathings were, "Lord, if there is any mercy for such a wretch as I am, O let it come! God be merciful to me a sinner."

After Jesus was revealed to me as my Saviour, I had a great thirst for knowledge, and I eagerly sought information. I have burned hundreds of pine knots to make lights to see to spell and read at night. I was nineteen years old when I saw a lamp for the first time. On July 30, 1877, I heard Elder B. E. Caudill preach the first sermon I ever heard. Now, I have never been to school but about two months in all my life, and that was in the winter of 1878. I was baptized by Elder B. E. Caudill on the third Sunday in June 1878, and commenced preaching the second Sunday in August of the same year. I was ordained by Elders Joshua Long and William Hall, to all the functions of the gospel ministry on the third Saturday in May, 1881, and I have been trying to fill this sacred office ever since to the best of my ability. I traveled for eight or nine years here in this mountainous and poor country; trying to preach Jesus to the people, filling all of my appointments on foot, except my monthly appointment at Roaring River Church, and the brethren of that church conveyed me to and from that church, a distance of about fifteen miles.

During the first eight or nine years of my ministry, my family and I suffered many privations and endured many hardships. We lived hard and went bare. I have worked until ten or eleven o'clock at night to try to make up my lost time going to and from my appointments on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, and putting all together from first to last that has been given me by the people of this part of the country, it would not amount to over five dollars.

Since I began preaching in 1878, I have traveled for the purpose of preaching over 86,000 miles, preaching Jesus Christ and Him crucified in thirty states and territories. I have preached 3301 sermons since I have been trying to preach. But poor little insignificant worm of the dust that I am, I am an unprofitable servant at best.

ELDER CHARLES F. WELLS

Elder Charles Franklin Wells was born on January 15, 1905, in Jones County, Georgia (near Macon). He joined Elizabeth Church in 1923 and was baptized by Elder J. A. Monsees. In 1927 he married Clara Annie Bell from the Dublin area. They have reared eight children.

Elder Wells was liberated to the stand in 1928, and was ordained in 1933. In 1936 he was called to serve Mountain Springs Church in the Ebenezer Association, and served it continuously until 1980, when he was forced to retire because of ill health. Over the years, he served churches in Thomaston, Moultrie and Tifton.

Although Elder Wells' first love was the Bible, he gave talks on the Civil War and Jefferson Davis. He wrote articles in several Primitive Baptist papers and two booklets: Condensed History of the Baptists and The Battle of Griswoldville.

After an extended illness, he died on August 2, 1990.

ELDER A. D. WEST

Elder Arthur Delano West was born February 3, 1882 in Conway County, Arkansas. He was the fifth of thirteen children born to William Wylie and Roda Arena Carlock West. He passed from this life on August 5, 1960 at Ada, Oklahoma.



Elder West was ordained October 2, 1915 at Zion's Rest Church, Powderly, Texas. He joined Little Vine Church, Blue Mountain, Arkansas in May of 1910. He was baptized by Elder M. J. Ryan. Elder West, his wife and five children moved to Eastern Oklahoma in 1914 and they began attending the Church in Powderly, Texas in 1915, traveling 20 miles each way in a covered wagon.

Elder West pastored churches at Purcell, Ada, Tecumseh, Elmore City, Union Springs, Pauls Valley and Marlow, Oklahoma.

He married Ellen Morgan in 1898, daughter of J.B. and Margaret Ann Morgan. Ellen died in 1899 following childbirth complications. Late he married Ida Isabelle Yarbrough on July 28, 1901, daughter of W.F. and Margaret Jane Yarbrough, of Magazine, Arkansas.

Elder West had five children: Oliver B. West, Zetta Lee West Clour, Allen L. West, Lona V. West Newman, Daniel Clyde West. Several of his descendants followed him in the ministry, namely: Elder Allen L. West (Son). Elder Bill D. McCarthy (Grandson-in-Law) Elder Randall K. McCarthy (Great-Grandson).

Elder West owned and operated a chicken hatchery and feed store Southwest of Purcell; he was very active in the Purcell/Wayne community, serving on the school and election boards in McClain County, Oklahoma. In 1939 the hatchery business was sold and Elder West and wife moved to Ada, Oklahoma where he lived until his death in 1960. He was a very humble servant of God, an able minister who was well loved by all that knew him.

ELDER ALLAN WEST

SUBMITTED BY DERAL LEON CLOUR --- NEPHEW (SON OF WILBURN FRANCIS AND ZETTA LEE CLOUR): Elder Allan Lafayette West was born on December 12, 1904 and passed from this life on September 14, 1986. His parents were Elder A. D. West and Ida Yarbrough



He was ordained sometime in 1971 at the Bethlehem PBC, Oklahoma City. He pastored and served many churches: Elk Creek Church and Wichita Falls Church for a short time.

He was married October 13, 1924 to Edna Burnett of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. After her passing, he married Susie Carmichel of Guthrie, Oklahoma on January 25, 1932. His children were Allen Duane West by his first wife Edna, and Donald Arthur and Adrian Leon by Susie, his second wife.

He was a member of the Oklahoma City Police Force for many years. After retiring from the Police Force, he worked as a safety engineer for Maryland Casualty Company.

He was a very humble servant of God, an able minister who was well liked by all that knew him. He was an upstanding citizen of the community. He was a good singer and song leader as well as an instructor of singing.

ELDER JAMES FLOYD WEST



Elder West was born on November 6, 1892 to William and Rhoda West and passed from this life on April 29, 1983. He was ordained in 1925 at the Bethlehem Church in Oklahoma City.

On July 14, 1910, he married the former Martha Wagner. After her passing, he married the former Bessie Newman in 1920. After her passing, he married the former Winnie Wyatt. Elder West had ten children: James, Martha, Theron, Willians, Leatha, Ermon, Betty, Norman, Winnie, and Jessie.

Elder West worked as a farmer and on the election board. He was a loving father to his children. Two of his daughters were married to minister: Elder Gene Hindricks and James Lamb. Elder West pastored churches in Lexington and Elmore City, both in the State of Oklahoma.

ELDER MARION WEST

WRITTEN BY ELDER WEST IN 1961: According to the family record, I was born March 20, 1888 in Guadeloupe County, Texas. I am the son of William and Mary Baker West and the Grandson of the late Elder J. M. Baker of Luling, Texas.

I was married to Miss Ruth Pipkins, April 16, 1911 at Bend, Texas, Lampasas County.

If I am not deceived, I was given a sweet hope by grace when I was nine years old. By this great work and my experience following it, I am made to believe I was regenerated and adopted into the redeemed family

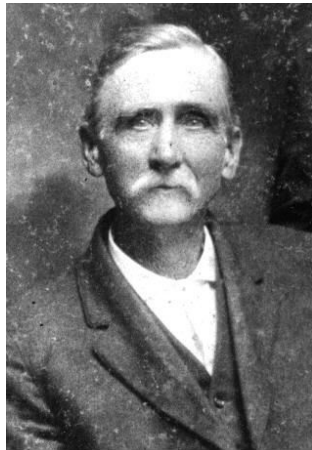
of God and began to have a desire to unite with the church. My parents, being Primitive Baptist, had taught their children the letter of the Bible and the doctrine of grace. I united with Pilgrim Rest Church in Lampasas County on Saturday before the first Sunday in December 1908.

I was ordained to the full work of the ministry on Saturday before first Sunday in October 1911.

My credentials, which are one of my prized possessions and faded by fifty years, were issued by Pilgrim Rest Church. They give the following named elders and deacons that composed the presbytery that ordained me. Elders W. Y. Norman, J. N. Watson, Jasper Chambers, SR, and A. B. Chambers. Deacons R. B. Hester, W. J. Taylor, and A. M. Harley. Elder A. B. Chambers was moderator and R. B. Hester, clerk.

ELDER ISHAM A. WETHERINGTON

FROM VALDOSTA TIMES, September 17, 1923 by W.G.A.: Early on the morning of September 5th, the sad news of the death of Elder Isham A. Wetherington was announced.



He had been in declining health for a year, but his friends thought he was gradually improving and no one anticipated his sudden departure.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday (September 1 - 3) he presided over the Annual Meeting at Wayfare Church just prior to his death Monday night, and at the close of the meeting made the expression that it was to him the fullest joy, comfort, and consolation of any meeting in the history of his life, and it seemed to be the theme of his conversation all day Monday and until late Monday night when he retired for the night's repose.

Save the legal profession, his opinion and advice were as much sought for by all classes of people as any man that ever lived in this county.

Elder Wetherington's educational advantages were very limited having been brought up to young manhood in the days of reconstruction when schools were few and as a rule, very inefficient; yet, by diligent research and close observation he acquired a practical education that served him efficiently in the wide circle of his useful life.

He was born in Lowndes County Georgia on the thirteenth day of October 1852, not more than two miles from the home where he reared his family.

He was united in marriage to Miss Marion M. Ziegler December 3, 1874. This union produced a large family of sons and daughters, not one of whom has ever gone astray or caused their parents to lie down at night with sad hearts.

Elder Wetherington united with the Primitive Baptist Church at Unity on Friday before the fourth Sunday in August 1887, and was baptized by Elder T. W. Stallings who was for many years pastor of that church. Soon after becoming a member of the church, the brethren became impressed that he was a gift to the church and the pastor began asking him to take part in the services.

The church called for his ordination and December 31, 1893 and he was ordained to the full functions of the Gospel ministry.

ELDER LOY ALTON WHARTON



Of Maud, Texas. Was born Feb 8, 1935 in Cuthand Texas to John Ezra and Ola Faye Wharton. He is married Mandy Ruth Wharton. He was ordained August 28, 1993 at Enon Primitive Baptist Church, Queen City, Texas. Ordaining Elders: Bob Bolden, Gerald Stanford, and Vernon Griffin. Deacons: Maurice E. Thomas-Enon, R.G. Riggs, Robert G. Thomas,

Clarence Allen, and Mike Welch. Elder Wharton currently serves the Enon Church as pastor.

ELDER VACHAEL D. WHATLEY

BY ELDER W. M. MITCHELL: Elder Vachael D. Whatley, was the son of Robert Whatley, a native Georgian. He was born in Green County, April 16, 1809, and fourteen years thereafter the family moved to Monroe



County, Georgia, but in common with many children of that day, young Vachael had no opportunities of school education, except two or three months. Being however, a youth of promise, and a brilliant intellect, good morals and untiring energy and industry, he utilized his limited opportunities so well that in after years his education, information and general knowledge of men and things was far above an average of many of his young associates and when at the

age of eighteen or twenty, he became deeply concerned about his soul's salvation, and carefully read the Bible, he greatly and rapidly improved in reading, and to the end of his mortal pilgrimage on earth the Bible was the book of books with him. His convictions for sin were deep and pungent, but after many days and nights of mourning, supplications and prayers, he obtained mercy, at about the age of twenty-one, and in 1831 he was received into the fellowship of the Baptist church at County Line, Pike County, Ga. Three years after he was married to Miss Mary Lassater. During this time great controversy among the Baptists on the modern missionary institutions had culminated in a final division, and Brother V. D. Whatley, though young, had acquired such knowledge of the Scriptures and of the doctrine and order taught therein, that when the sad and heart-rending division came he was found among the Primitive Baptists, heart and soul, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of unscriptural institutions for a season.

We well remember how deeply humiliated our dear brother appeared to be when Elder Frank Douglas, of Georgia, while preaching on Sunday and treating upon a call to the ministry, saw the tears trickling down the cheeks of Brother Whatley, and exclaimed with zeal and tenderness, "And

you too, Brother Whatley, will soon have to break out at the mouth. Your brethren felt it before you left Georgia, and now you have come to Alabama. You cannot evade the call of God!" Oh, how our brother did weep; and how we did then feel drawn in brotherly sympathy to him, as we had ourselves been then only three months in the ministry. In a few years, however, his gift was apparent to the church, and after preaching for a time to the satisfaction and comfort of Christians, his ordination was called for, and July 9th, 1852, a Presbytery consisting of Elders Josephus Barrow, Emanuel Brittain, Moses Gunn and James Mayfield, convened with the church at Beulah, Troup County, Ga., of which Brother Whatley was then a member, and after careful examination in the usual manner, solemnly set apart V. D. Whatley to go forth and preach the gospel and officiate in all the functions of the gospel ministry "wherever God in Providence should cast his lot." Soon after his ordination he accepted the pastoral charge of the church at Union, Chambers County, Ala., and besides the church at Beulah of which he was a member, the church at Macedonia, Chambers County, and Bethlehem, Tallapoosa County, Ala., called him. Though one over twenty and the other over forty miles from him, over rough roads, he attended them faithfully, generally going on horse-back. Besides the churches above mentioned, he also, during his ministry, had the pastoral care of Concord Church, in Tallapoosa County, Ala., and Providence and Bethel, in Meriwether County, Ga. For some years before his death, by unanimous choice of the Beulah Association, he served that body as Moderator, and we well remember when preaching the closing sermon in 1865, when the Association was held with the church at Wehauka, he used the text, "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God."

He gently fell asleep in Jesus January 31, 1866. He was in his fifty-seventh year, and had been preaching only about fifteen years.

Elder V. D. Whatley was truly a great and good man, an able, faithful and useful minister of the gospel. And though he did not have as great a variety in his preaching as some are favored with, he always had the respectful attention of his congregations, even where he preached for many years. In preaching his whole soul seemed to become fired with earnest zeal. No man graced a pulpit better or looked more like the "right man in the right place" than did Elder V. D. Whatley. His remarks were confined to his text, and we have repeatedly heard him say that when a minister read a text, his congregation had a right to expect, him to discuss and expound it to the best of his ability. His addressees were scriptural,

and he never indulged in any speculative theories. In conversation he was reserved and timid, but when he did speak it, was to the point.

ELDER DON WHEAT

Elder Wheat was born Nov. 10, 1943 in Mt. Vernon, KY. His family moved to Cincinnati, Ohio. He never attended church growing up, but had a love of God, and believed The Bible was Holy. As a teenager he started attending a Christian church and felt a burden to preach, and was being encouraged to go to Bible College after he graduated from high school. He met Deborah Downs and attended the Cincinnati Primitive Baptist Church where she was a member. His first impression was that these people were totally wrong in what they believed. He later found himself defending what these Primitive Baptists believed. He joined the Cincinnati Church in May 1963. On July 18, 1964 he and Deborah were married by their pastor Elder Lasserre Bradley, Jr. To this union two sons and a daughter were born.

He was ordained a deacon at Cincinnati Church in 1971. He still carried the burden to preach, and later was liberated by Cincinnati Church. He was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry in 1985. He became the pastor of the Salem Church near Means, KY. He served as their pastor for 12 years. He is presently serving the Rock Springs Church at Green Hall, KY.



ELDER G.W. WHITE

Elder G.W. White was born in Fayette County, Alabama, June 13, 1850; came to Texas November 1856 with six families - four Whites, one Baker, one Smith and one Dunegan. All were related to him. He was married to Sarah A. Reed of Caldwell County, Texas, October 17, 1870 by Elder Abel Baker. To this union six boys and seven girls were born.

He joined Bethel Primitive Baptist Church in Caldwell County, Texas, in May 1873; was baptized by Elder Abel Baker. Brother White was ordained to the full work of the ministry in May 1888, by the following Presbytery: Elders J. M. Baker, J. W. Baker, J. W. Shook, R.W. Ellis and Deacon R. Cole. He has spent the most of his time among the churches of South Texas, serving many as Pastor. He was a member of Mt. Zion Church in Gonzales County, which he has served as Pastor for thirty years.

ELDER H. E. WHITE

FROM "HISTORY OF MUD CREEK ASSOCIATION" BY JOANN THOMAS ELKIN: Elder H. E. White was a messenger to the 1873 association from Liberty Church and agreed to represent the Mud Creek Association at the Mt. Zion Association in 1874. Elder White served as moderator in 1880 and 1881; he preached the Introductory Sermon in 1876, 1886 and 1893. From 1875 through 1880, Elder White lived in Scottsboro and was a member of Blue Spring Church and a messenger to the association from that church. He was a messenger from Bethany Church from 1882 through 1886 and lived at **Parks Store** in 1886. Bethany Church changed its name to Lebanon in 1888 and Elder White is shown as a messenger to the association from that church from 1888 through 1894; during this time he lived in Larkinsville and also in Scottsboro. There is no further mention of Elder White after 1907.

ELDER H. J. WHITE

I was born to Elder H. J. White and wife in the year 1890 on Oct. 23. The event was in Leon County Texas, near Marquez Texas. I was married to Zue Flynt the year of 1909 May 11, have lived together for 52 years. We were married by Elder R. V. Holleman.



I received a sweet hope Christ in my tender years, just past 14 years of age. I also had a great desire to speak in the name of Christ Jesus my Lord. I united with the Primitive Baptist Church

in the year 1906 and was baptized in January by Elder R. V. Holleman. This brought me a great relief but the impression to speak grew on me until I just could not rest day or night.

In the year of 1932, I made my first attempt to speak, all which brought to me a sweet rest of heart and mind. I felt that I would never have this to do again; but it was not like this. This great impression has ever been with me—it seems that it is part of me—there is no place for me to stop; but I have felt many times like giving up in despair.

I was ordained to the full work of the ministry in 1934. The presbytery was composed of Elders R. V. Holleman, W L. Simmons, W. L. Phillips, J. T. Fannin, A. Mosley, G. W. Moseley, George Moseley, Joe Meese, and deacons Andrews, Furman and Fannin.

I have never had any trouble in any church that I have served. When I gave up the care of churches, they were in peace. I have served as joint pastor with others and enjoyed it. I have baptized many and been in many ordinations both deacon and ministers, and I have set in the organization of 5 or 6 churches.

NOTE: Elder White passed from this life on October 17, 1969.

ELDER J. C. WHITE

FROM "HISTORY OF THE CHURCH IN TEXAS, OKLAHOMA AND INDIAN TERRITORY" BY ELDER J. S. NEWMAN: Elder White who was known in his day as Uncle Jackie, left Alabama October 11, 1856, and landed in Coryell County January the second, 1860. At this time the county was sparsely settled and of course our people were few and widely scattered. A short while after Elder White settled in Coryell County he heard of an Old Baptist preacher by the name of Griffith that lived over in Hamilton County on the Leon River, so Elder White started to hunt Elder Griffith and as there were Indians in the county at that time, Elder White buckled his six-shooter around him and his gun to the horn of his saddle with his old saddle bags containing a hymn book and Bible, so when Elder White found Elder Griffith he was soon informed that there was a Primitive Baptist Church over in the northeast corner of Coryell County by the name of Rainey's Creek. Arrangements were soon made and the two Old Baptist preachers were on their way to said church, and

near where Turnersville now is, the Indians came upon them wounding both of them, Elder Griffith died nine days after he was wounded. Elder White's wounds were so severe that life was despaired of by his family and his brethren. For seven weeks he was turned on a sheet in his bed. He finally survived, his wounds got well. He died at Lampasas on February 13, 1884.

ELDER KING M. WHITE

WRITTEN IN "THE GOSPEL MESSENGER" BY ELDER M. T. LAWRENCE: He was the son of Calvin White and wife Mary, and was born in Martin County, N. C., August 28, 1861, and died August 21, 1904. He was married to Miss Lindy Taylor, December 1, 1886, by whom he had nine children, five of them preceding him to the grave, and four yet survive him, three boys and one girl. He united with the church at Hamilton, N. C., on the first Saturday in April 1891, and was baptized in Roanoke River, by the writer on Sunday. The church, seeing the Lord had given him a gift of some kind, agreed on the first Saturday in June 1897, to give him the privilege to exercise it in the churches around us. He manifested that he was blessed of the Lord with a gift to expound the Scriptures and edify the Lord's people, and therefore on Saturday before the first Sunday in December 1900, it was agreed that he be ordained to the work of the ministry. On Sunday he was set apart by the presbytery chosen for that purpose, consisting of Elders G. D. Roberson, Samuel Moore, and myself. He grew more and more acceptable in his brief but earnest ministry, and will be greatly missed in many respects.

I spoke at his home before his body was removed to its last resting place to many sorrowing and sympathizing ones, and Brother Hassell held a comforting and impressive service at the grave, where his mortal remains were laid beside his dear companion who had shortly preceded him, and where were deposited also the bodies of the five little ones who had gone before. His little babe, his dear wife, he, and his father have all gone in about nine months. He had the best of attention by neighbors and friends and physicians, but fell a victim to that dread disease typhoid fever at last.

ELDER MARLIN L. WHITE

THIS INFORMATION IS QUOTED FROM A FORTHCOMING BOOK OF WRITINGS BY ELDER WHITE: I was born August 11, 1913, in Coosa County, Alabama, the fifth child of 12.

Some of the most joyous times of my youth were when the brethren and sisters visited our home. It was such times as these that I became indoctrinated. As the brethren sat on the porch and talked and laughed I felt they were the best people in the world, and I still do.

My membership has been spent mostly at Liberty Hill and Fairmount (now Oak Grove) Churches.



The following Elders meant much to me in my young days: Elders Sanford L. Hornsby, Ben Tucker, R. W. Hyde, Gordon Justice, Clyde Waldrip, Frank Guy, and precious old Brother Woodall, who lived in Louisiana but came back every year and spent about three months in this area. These old soldiers have passed from the scene but it is pleasant to remember them. God grant that we may continue to have men of this type who gave their lives in the cause.

We went into the "Great Depression" in debt, our farm in the Farm Loan, our mules old and worn out, and owing a fertilizer bill. In March of 1925, when I was just a strip of a boy, only 11 years old, weighing about 65 pounds (I had malaria fever for several years), the Lord appeared to me. One minute I was listening to my Dad and older brother discussing the things of God and the next minute I felt unfit to be in their presence. When they left to feed, I was left alone by the stove wood I was splitting, when I was almost blinded and overshadowed by a great light. I then fell on my knees and begged for mercy. I did not know what I needed, but felt compelled to beg anyway.

The next first Saturday in April I asked for and received a home in Liberty Hill Church and was baptized on Sunday morning. I have made many mistakes since then, but have never regretted my time spent in fellowship in the Church.

The next summer the Lord appeared to me again and made it known to me that I would someday preach His everlasting gospel. This did not worry me as I felt that when the time came He would enable me to perform it and He has.

In January of 1943 I was licensed to preach and in October of 1944 I was, along with Brother Elzie White, ordained to the full work of the ministry. Immediately following, my wife joined the Church and she was the first person I baptized, the fourth Sunday in November 1944. A happy day.

I am past 80 years old and I would like to bestow a few credits to some Elders who have meant much to me: Elders C. E. Tucker, Ben Tucker, Louis Culver, Charles Roling, Frank Wood, Ben Keeble, Ted Price, Ralph Harris, S. L. Hornsby, E. D. Speir, Sr., Ernie Stump.

Having passed my 80th year, it appears all I have left is my family, church and the great living hope that when this life is past, a better place awaits me, that I have not one thing to do with it or my promise from the Lord. I am content to abide until the Lord says it is enough.

ELDER M. P. WHITE



Elder White was born on May 1, 1913 in Giles County Tennessee. His mother died when he was two years old. His father, who died when he was nine, took him to County Line Church. After his father passed away, an uncle raised him.

In 1936, he married Robbie Campbell and together they raised four children. He joined County Line Church in 1940 and was ordained to the ministry in 1944. He served as pastor of County Line Church until he was stricken with a stroke in 1973. He also pastored Good Hope, New Hope, and Hurricane Springs. He also visited and preached among many of the churches and associations in Tennessee, north Alabama and northwestern Mississippi.

Elder White had a gift of relating to people and was loved by those who knew him.

ELDER CHARLES WHITTEN

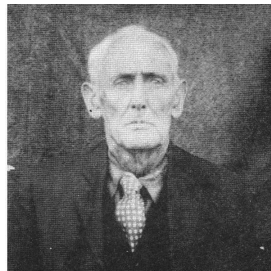
Elder Whitten was born November 30, 1939, the son of Elver and Gertrude Whitten. He was baptized about 1968 by Elder Elmer Weaver into the fellowship of Little Hatchie Church. About two years later he was ordained as a deacon.

Elder Whitten took part by way of opening the worship services for years, but felt no burden for the ministry until one session of the Predestinarian Association, on Saturday night, when Elder Ken Mallard was preaching from Isaiah Chapter 6. When he spoke of the prophet's expression, "Send me," Brother Whitten was struck with a strong impression to speak in the Lord's name. He was liberated to preach in 1994 and was called to serve Rocky Springs Church in 1995. He was ordained to the ministry in 1996 at Rocky Springs. Elder T. L. Webb, Jr., served as moderator of the presbytery, Elder Ken Mallard preached the charge and served as clerk, and Elder Dan Newman offered the ordination prayer.

Elder Whitten and his wife, Polly, were married in 1988.

ELDER ANDY WHITWORTH

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATT'S: The earliest account that we have of Andy Whitworth is that he was a member at Brown's Creek in 1881. In 1886, he was licensed to preach and was ordained in 1887. Elder Andy Whitworth was a younger brother of Elder Claburn Whitworth.



Elder Whitworth was a member at Brown's Creek until 1900 when he helped constitute Bethel Church near Arab. He was a member at Bethel when

that church, together with Pleasant Hill, Zion Hill, and New Hope defected. Bethel dissolved in 1904 and 1905 when the other three churches returned to the association. Elder Whitworth joined Shiloh Church, where he remained until 1909, when he joined Rocky Mount Church. Elder Whitworth became disabled in 1931, but in 1934, he sat with the presbytery to ordain Elder H. P. Copeland.

Elder Whitworth died in 1935.

ELDER CLABURN WHITWORTH

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: Elder Whitworth was born in Tennessee about 1823. His father, Claburn, Sr., was born in North Carolina in 1785. On June 16, 1841, Elder Whitworth was married to Hannah Bodine by Elder Martin Putman.

The earliest account we have of this Elder is that he was a member at Brown's Creek in 1870. In 1873, his membership was at Siloam and in 1875, he had moved his membership to Salem. As the 1878 Minute of the Mount Zion Association is lost, we assume that Elder Whitworth was ordained in 1878 or 1879, as he is listed with the ordained Elders in 1879. His address is given as Brooksville. In 1880, Elder Whitworth was a member at Brown's Creek where he remained until his death in 1888 or 1889.

Elder Claburn Whitworth pastored more churches than any other minister at his time.

ELDER LEON WIGGINS, SR.

Elder Leon Wiggins, Sr. was born in Sumter County, Georgia on December 19, 1911. He and his twin brother, Leo, are the only surviving children of eleven that were born to John T. and Elizabeth S. Wiggins. He attended Liberty Primitive Baptist Church during his boyhood and joined the church and was baptized February 20, 1931 by his brother, Elder O.E. Wiggins. He was ordained as a minister of God in May 1955 at Liberty Church.

He was a faithful pastor of the following churches in Georgia: Liberty Church, Sumter Co., 16 years; Harmony Church, Barwick, 18 years; and Bethel Church, Pavo, 12 years.



In 1979, he moved to Brunswick, Georgia to hold regular services with a small group of believers in their homes. From this labor of love and service Zion Church was constituted in September 1979. He was called as their first pastor and served Zion Church for 16 years.

Due to failing health, Elder Wiggins and his wife moved back home, giving up the pastoral care of Zion Church in September 1996.

Elder Wiggins, 88 years old, still attends Liberty and other churches in the area and when called on, still speaks of the Lord's goodness.

Elder Wiggins was married to Rosa Lee Bentley from Roberta, Georgia in December 1938. After her death in 1941, he married Helen Davis of Terrell County, Georgia on April 2, 1943.

Elder Wiggins and his companion of fifty-six years were blessed of the Lord with three daughters and two sons.

ELDER S. D. WIGGINS

WRITTEN IN THE "GOSPEL MESSENGER" BY HIS DAUGHTER-IN-LAW BY REQUEST OF HIS SON, S. L. WIGGINS: Elder Wiggins was born February 3, 1851 and passed from this life the June 2, 1913. He was licensed to preach the Gospel wherever the Lord might cast his lot on January 12, 1884, at Good Hope Church. November 8th of the same year his ordination was called for by Enon Church and Good Hope accepted the call. The presbytery called in was: Elders R. S. Hughes, J. D. Hudson, M. L. Dauphin and S. Long.

He was first married to Miss Susannah Long, in the year of our Lord, October 5, 1873. They had four children, two girls and two boys. It was

their happy lot to be spared together until April 9, 1901, when God saw fit to take her from him. He was again married to Miss Della Little September 23, 1906.

ELDER W. R. WIGGINS

FROM "THE GOSPEL MESSENGER" WRITTEN BY ELDER SYLVESTER HASSELL: Elder W. R. Wiggins, son of Rowland Wiggins and his wife, whose maiden name was Patsy Whitfield, was born in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, March 22, 1836, and died of heart failure, after twenty-two hours illness, which he spent in prayer and praise to God, at his home near Elm City, Wilson County, N. C.

He was married in 1859 to Carolina Carter. Their children were Claudius L., John R., Thomas L., Noah W, William A., Reddin F., and Theodeus P. Wiggins, and Mrs Martha Ann Lewis and Mrs. Sarah M. Lewis. Elder Wiggins was baptized by Elder Bennett Pitt, in 1872, and preached with uncommon ability. I esteemed him highly as a child of God and a devoted friend.

ELDER OTIS V. WILDER

Elder Otis V. Wilder of Deltona, FL formerly of Goshen, Ohio, beloved husband of Adeline Miracle Wilder, married for 66 years, dear father of Christine Eldridge, Jewel Wyatt, Lois Conley, Roscoe and Abraham (Bud) Wilder.

Elder Wilder was born in Bell County Kentucky, on Nov. 3, 1900 and departed on August 10, 1990. He was a retired cable splicer for the Cincinnati Gas & Electric Co. for 37 years.

At the time of Elder Wilder's death, he was a member of the Mt. Haven Church of Sanford, FL, having moved his membership there by letter in July 1985. Previously he had been a member of Mt. Zion Church of Blanchester, Ohio for 42 years. He was ordained to the ministry August 4, 1945. He served Mt. Zion Church as pastor for 16 years, assistant pastor for 7 years and clerk for 4 years, at the same time serving Rocky Fork, Green River and other churches as their pastor. All who knew Elder

Wilder know of his love and faithfulness in serving the Lord and his fellow members.

ELDER DANIEL WILKERSON

CONDENSED FROM INFORMATION FROM THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST: Elder Wilkerson as born May 18, 1855, in Wayne County, Ga., the son of William and Celia (Slone) Wilkerson. His mother died when he was one and one-half years old. His father died in the War Between the States in Richmond, Virginia, and he went to live with his grandparents. His grandfather died in the summer of 1868, and it seemed that the last prop for him to lean on had been knocked out.

His father was Methodist and his mother's people were Missionaries. In January 1870, he and several other youngsters joined the Methodist church. At dinner on the day he had been scheduled to be sprinkled, he felt a great horror and gloom come over him, and saw himself a poor, lost, ruined sinner in the sight of a just and holy God. He dreaded to die and be cast into that dreadful place, but could see no way of escape, for he was a poor sinner, justly condemned. He turned to his aunt and said, "I am dying." She gave him a look he never forgot, and he left the room to seek a place where he could be hidden from all human eyes. This trouble grew worse until March 1870. During that time he tried every way to get rid of the burden, but could not. Then, one evening, as the sun seemed to be setting for the last time, he was called to supper, but could only bid his grandmother and sister goodbye and left the room, never expecting to see them again. He walked to a small cluster of oaks, prepared to die. As he entered it he became unconscious. How long he remained in this state, he did not know, but the next thing he knew the little grove was lighted up and his burden was gone. He was praising God for his goodness, and thought he would never commit another sin, which was a sad mistake. From that time he had no confidence in human works for salvation, but stayed with the Methodist people for two years.

In May 1877 he married Miss Sofrona Jane Rowell, and to them seven children were born. Soon after marriage, a new trouble came upon him when he was least looking for it. His old troubles were gone and he was satisfied, and could not see why he should be worried, as he was trying to live right, honest and upright. This trouble got heavier until February 1878, when he went to Prospect Church and asked them for a

home. He was baptized the next day (fourth Sunday) by Elder Richard Bennett. The third Sunday in March 1878, he was put into the stand to try to speak in the name of Jesus Christ. The third Sunday in April he was licensed to exercise his gift anywhere called on, and July 27, 1882, was ordained to the ministry by Elders Silas Thornton, John Moody, Will Newman, James Thornton and James Williams. Elder Wilkerson soon moved to Florida and joined Prospect Church of the Suwannee River Association. He pastored many churches throughout south Georgia and north and central Florida.

The third Sunday in July 1939, he preached his last sermon at his home church, Hopewell, and in conclusion, he bade farewell to the saints, realizing his stay on earth was near an end. On September 4, he was stricken with an attack of acute indigestion, from which he never recovered, and quietly passed away on September 21.

ELDER BENJAMIN F. WILKINSON

Elder Benjamin F. Wilkinson, son of Elder Rowland and Margaret Cain Wilkinson was born in 1833, married Jane Tillery December 15, 1859. After he death, he married Rose Jagers Stokes. He served Plymouth Church, Amite County, Mississippi after having been ordained an Elder on May 15, 1886. He was a soldier in the Confederate Army and was wounded for life. He died in September 1910.

ELDER H. B. WILKINSON

WRITTEN BY ELDER C.W. MILLER: I hear that Elder Ben. Wilkinson of Claxton, Georgia, died July 4, in a hospital in Savannah, of cancerous disease.

A prince in Israel has indeed fallen! A man of great natural talents, culture, and a refinement of heart that only God's Spirit can give. Brother Wilkinson was able to amass much wealth; and was at one time State Senator in the Georgia Legislature. He pushed all that aside to pastor churches; and I've been told that when his members would get too fond of his preaching, not caring to hear other ministers of lesser talent, he would quit that church, forcing it to call another pastor. A rare humility!

His brethren have also told me that when the storm of progressivism raged, disrupting his old Association, the true old line Baptists knew not

which way to turn. Ben. Wilkinson worked to quiet and establish his home church, then those near by, till he gradually drew together the present Lott's Creek Association. Last year was its twenty-third session, and it consists of twenty-one churches comprising about eleven hundred members: possibly one of the strongest associations in Georgia.

When Brother Wilkinson's last illness came, it is said he regretted the time and attention given to business and politics, wishing that he might have labored more abundantly in the Master's vineyard.

ELDER JOHN CAIN WILKINSON

Elder John Cain Wilkinson was born in 1824, son of Elder Rowland and Margaret Cain Wilkinson, married Philadelphia Van Norman of Amite County, MS January 28, 1845 and had 6 children. He was ordained an Elder at Plymouth Primitive Baptist Church July 15, 1871 and served Plymouth Church about 40 years and died May 1911. He served in the Confederate Army and was one of the most beloved men in Amite County, MS.

ELDER LAMAR WILKINSON

WRITTEN BY HIS SON, ELDER STEVE WILKINSON: Born September 9, 1911 in Yazoo County Mississippi the seventh child of 8. Son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Wilkinson. Elder Wilkinson's father died 4 years after his birth leaving his mother widow and destitute. Elder Wilkinson began working at a very young age causing his schooling to be somewhat erratic. He had to leave home at 14 years old to be on his own. During these difficult times he managed to finish High School in 1930. Elder Wilkinson attended Mississippi A&M, (Now Mississippi State University) 3 ½ years before having to quit due to lack of finances and poor health.

Elder Wilkinson was married soon after leaving college to Ollie Dell Wilkinson on December 23 1933. There were 5 children born to this union, 3 boys and 2 girls.

Elder Wilkinson united with Bethany PB Church in Yazoo County MS in July 1938.

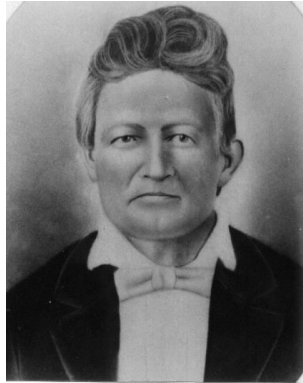
Elder Wilkinson recounts: "You know in the old days the young folks did not receive any encouragement to come and enter into the Lord's service by uniting with the church. I was told that a person was still susceptible to sinfulness at a young age." He told the writer that he would have joined the church years earlier if thought he could.

After joining the church he also became burdened with the desire to preach the gospel. His wife told him if he began preaching she would leave him. This of course made his struggle more difficult. God's providence moved him into the ministry regardless of the difficulty and he was ordained to the work of the ministry the 30th of January 1955.

Elder Wilkinson served as pastor of Bethany Church till 1982. He traveled widely preaching the gospel. He also served as pastor of Harmony PB Church near Philadelphia, MS, Ephesus PB Church near Port Gibson, MS.

Elder Wilkinson passed from this life to meet his Savior Dec 13, 1992.

ELDER ROWLAND WILKINSON



Elder Rowland Wilkinson was born February 4, 1797 in Richmond County, Georgia, son of Macajah and Mary Kennedy Wilkinson. He moved to Mississippi about 1812 with his parents, settled in Adams County, which was later divided and became Amite County. He married Margaret Cain of Ga. November 4, 1819 and had 6 children. Two of his sons became Primitive Baptist ministers.

He was a Baptist minister and preached for 27 years at a church in the Mississippi Baptist Association. When the controversy arose among the Baptists over the Fuller doctrine or Missionary movement, he declared non-fellowship with Zion Hill Church in Amite County and organized Plymouth Primitive Baptist Church near Gloster, Mississippi on November 7, 1857 where he served until his death September 24, 1867.

In his writings to his posterity about what occurred during this sad time of the division among the Baptists, he stated he was grieved to witness the gradual introduction of error both in faith and practice and the departing from the simplicity of the gospel as it is in Christ Jesus. That it was one of the most painful and self-denying acts of his life to sever a relationship which was once so endearing. In 1862, his son Jeff W. was killed in the battle of Shiloh defending his Southland.

The Primitive Baptists of MS are deeply indebted to Elder Rowland Wilkinson for his steadfastness of purpose and the courage of his conviction. He was a faithful and able advocate of the Truth of God.

ELDER STEVE WILKINSON



Of San Antonio, Texas. Born September 9, 1953 in Yazoo City, Mississippi, the son of Elder Lamar Wilkinson and Ollie Wilkinson.

Brother Steve began to feel the weight of his sins in his early teens. Joined Bethany Church in Yazoo County Mississippi, December of 1971. Baptized by Elder Lamar Wilkinson, (his father), and remained member of Bethany Church until he began his ministry.

His first impressions to preach were about 15 years of age. First Effort to speak was at the age of 21. The first effort to speak was frightening, yet blessed of God.

First labors before ordinations were with Bethlehem Church in Kenner La, Bethel Church in Baton Rouge, and Ephesus Church near Port Gibson, Mississippi.

Elder Wilkinson was ordained to the full work of the ministry on March 28, 1981. Immediately, he began serving the afore mentioned churches as pastor. Soon after ordination, he resigned from Ephesus Church in Mississippi and confined his labors to Baton Rouge and the New Orleans area. The belief that his labors should be confined to one

church as in the biblical examples, moved Elder Wilkinson to pray for direction in his labors which would lead him to the one church that God would have him serve. Elder Wilkinson's labors in Louisiana lasted approximately 3 ½ years.

The providence of God led Elder Wilkinson to meet members of a church in San Antonio, Texas called Eastside. After filling and appointment with Eastside that same year of 1984, Eastside Church called him as pastor on the same day as the appointment. Accepting the call, Elder Wilkinson moved to San Antonio to serve the one church fulfilling his desire to give his ministering time to one church. Eastside Church is now renamed Bethany Church and Northside Church is now consolidated with Bethany forming the one church in San Antonio. Recently Elder Wilkinson moved to Florida and has served churches in that State.

ELDER ZACHARIAH JEFFERSON WILKINSON

Elder Zachariah Jefferson Wilkinson was born in 1850, son of Elder John Cain and Philadelphia Wilkinson of Amite County, MS, married Mary J. Roberts December 2, 1869 and had 4 children. She died in 1882 and he married Sarah Dillon in 1883 and had 11 children. He was ordained an Elder May 15, 1886 and served Plymouth Church about 50 years. He died May 26, 1938.

ELDER D.B. WILLARD

FROM ELDER W. T. DAILY: Elder Brooklyn Willard of Winston Salem, North Carolina died in early June after a lengthy struggle with cancer. He was a widely known and dearly loved servant of God and his loss will be sorely felt by the Baptists of his area. His life was devoted to the people of God in general and to the cause of Christ in particular and he was faithful to the end.

He leaves his dear companion, Sister Mae, and their children, to mourn his passing. Though we considered him a dear friend and hated to give him up.

We could not attend the funeral but we are told that everything was carried out beautifully. Brother Hobert Medlyn lead the congregation in singing, which we understand was exceptionally beautiful. Just as Elder Mills was finishing, the last part of the service it began raining very hard, so the undertaker asked everyone to keep singing until it stopped raining. After four songs were sung, the sun came out and the remaining services were performed.

There were fifteen ministers in attendance at his funeral. The house was full and a speaker was placed in the dining room for those who could not get inside.

ELDER P. W. WILLARD

Elder Willard, born October 23, 1847, died December 18, 1933. He married Miss Lovenia Horney December 28, 1871, and to this union four sons were born.

Elder Willard's experience began at the early age of five years, and he was impressed to preach very young. In November 1884, he joined Abbotts Creek Church, being baptized by Elder L. I. Bodenheimer. Three years later in March 1887, he began preaching. Soon after being ordained he began serving four churches: Abbott's Creek, Saint's Delight, Sardis and Hill's Dale. He served Sardis 27 years, Abbott's Creek and Saint's Delight about 38 years, baptizing during that time more people than any other preacher in this community. Churches were generally in peace, and he was faithful and untiring in his services. Elder R. H. Pittman, in preaching his funeral, said of his life and character: "Brother Willard, as a man, lived a clean, upright and noble life. His influence for good was, great, for he was honest and sincere; he would not deceive. He was a good husband, a kind father, a real neighbor, a good citizen, but above all, a sound gospel preacher--a Prince in Israel."

Elder Willard was a great sufferer, but was always patient and submissive, never complaining, but ever ready to make the best of things and conditions.

ELDER VIRGIL V. WILLARD

WRITTEN BY ELDER JOE HELMS: Elder V. V. Willard passed from this life, Sunday Morning, October 24, 1982 at the age of 85. Although in declining health for quite sometime, he was seriously ill only one day.

Brother Willard was loved and respected in this part of God's vineyard, having served Lawyer's Spring Church as Pastor from May 1950 until December 1975. Previously he served as Assistant Pastor with Elder J. R. Wilson from October 1945. His knowledge, wisdom and leadership was a sustaining influence in the growth and respect of the churches in a wide area across the land.

During his Ministry, Elder Willard walked in the old path preaching what he believed to be the true gospel of Jesus Christ and saw the fruit of his labors in the increase of Baptist believers into the Church fellowship.

Many times he broke the frozen waters to baptize God's Little Children and traveled great distances in all kinds of weather and circumstances to be there to comfort those in need and also perform numerous wedding ceremonies from time to time.

We count it a great blessing to have known him as a Father, Brother and Pastor in the household of faith. Our memory returns to the years of faithful service he rendered to Lawyer's Spring Church and to the sweet comforting messages he was blessed to bring. Surely our Lord and Master was well pleased with this servant and we know he has fought the good fight and kept the faith.

ELDER ROBERT MURRIEL WILLETT



Murriel (R.M.) Willett was born September 7, 1896 to B. Frank and Elizabeth A. Willett He married Nina A. Bales on March 3, 1921, they had two children, Edna Murriel and Ray N.

He was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry of the Primitive Baptist Church in 1924. He was faithful to the cause

for over fifty years. He served as pastor of several churches during his lifetime, among them Log Creek Church near Polo MO; Mount Vernon Church at Kansas City, MO; Crooked River Church at Rayville, MO; and Mount Pleasant Church near Excelsior Springs MO.

He was a veteran of both World War I and World War II. At the time of his death, April 25 1980, he was a member of the Kansas City Church.

ELDER DANIEL WILLIAMS

FROM "PRIMITIVE MONITOR:" Daniel Williams, whose memory and services in the ministry and in the Revolutionary War have been honored in the Kentucky Historical Society, was among the first settlers to come into what is now Morgan County, Kentucky, arriving there in 1804.

Daniel Williams was born in 1752 or 1753. His father was Edward Williams, said to have been a descendant of Roger Williams. His mother was Mary Emory Williams. Edward Williams died soon after Daniel was born, and Mary Emory Williams later married Evans Davis, after which the family settled in Wilkes County, North Carolina.

Family tradition relates that Daniel Williams came with Daniel Boone on Boone's third trip to Kentucky in 1775 and that he helped build the fort at Boonesborough and helped defend it against Indian sieges; that he was one of the men commissioned by the Governor of North Carolina to come to Kentucky and help Boone fight the Indians. An Indian tomahawk handed down through the family is said to have been picked up by Daniel Williams outside the fort at Boonesborough after an Indian siege.

Daniel Williams not only helped build Boonesborough and defend it against Indian attacks, but he also fought under Col. Daniel Boone at the Battle of Blue Lick Springs in August of 1782 when 72 of the settlers were killed by Indians. The rifle with which he fought at Boonesborough and at the battle of Blue Lick Springs was made in Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1750, and was brought to Morgan County, Kentucky, by Daniel and has been handed down through the family,

Daniel Williams probably returned to the Carolinas after his first trip into Kentucky because records show that he served in the Revolutionary War as a soldier from South Carolina in the early 1780's. Later he was in the Holstein Valley, and it was while he was there that he came under the influence of Elder John Flannery, a noted Baptist preacher of the Deep Spring Church. After staying there some time, he came back to Kentucky, settled in Montgomery County, and was the principal instrument in forming the Lulbegrud Church near Mt. Sterling in 1793. He served as preacher there for some years.

After a few trips into what are now Morgan and Magoffin counties, hunting and preaching, Elder Williams was invited by early settlers of this region to settle and preach to them regularly. And as a further inducement, they offered to help him clear land and build a cabin if he would remove to Morgan County. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Caskey said they joined with other settlers and helped clear the ground and build the cabin. They said they cleared five acres on Licking and that the cabin was built in the clearing and stood near a spring that flowed out of the ground at the base of a small hill. This site has been identified as being near Riverside Drive in the town of West Liberty.

Elder Williams preached to the settlers over a wide area in eastern Kentucky and from 1804 to 1813, he was instrumental in organizing eleven Baptist churches. As these churches were organized, they were joined with the North District Association, which had been organized in 1802 to include churches north of the Kentucky River. In 1812 the old South Fork Church at Malone, who had been organized in 1808 with Daniel Williams as moderator, took steps to form a new association. This was done on the second Saturday of October in 1812 according to the original record book of the South Fork Church. The decision to organize a new association was due majority to the great distance the church delegates had to travel to attend the North District Association meetings. Accordingly, the next year on the first Saturday of October, delegates from eleven churches of the Upper Licking River section, which Elder Williams had helped to organize, met in association at the Burning Spring meeting house on Upper Licking River in what is now Magoffin County, and organized the Burning Springs Association of Primitive Baptists. The association, when organized, consisted of 11 churches With 403 members. Elder Williams wrote the circular letter for the association and preached the introductory sermon from Psalm 89:15: "Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound; they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance." He was elected first moderator of the association and was

re-elected moderator until he became ill in 1819. After living a few years at West Liberty, he removed to Caney and lived there until his death in 1820.

Daniel Williams married Violet Crough at Boonesborough and they had 12 children: six sons--Isaac, Caleb, Wiley C., John T., William, and Jeremiah Verdman; six daughters--Nancy, Betsy, Edie, Frankie, Polly and Winnie.

Their fourth son, John T., was one of the Justices of the Peace appointed by Governor Adair to set up the County of Morgan in 1822. He became known as Squire John T., and lived on Williams Creek of Elk Fork. A part of his old home is still standing on the farm, now owned by Bruce Williams, a descendant.

Squire John T. was the father of Capt. John T. Williams of Lower Caney who was a captain in the Confederate forces during the Civil War and lived in a large house near Liberty Road. After the Civil War, he operated a water mill on Lower Caney.

The third son of Elder Williams, Wiley C., was elected Morgan County's first State Representative and served from 1825 to 1827.

The oldest daughter, Nancy, married David Lykins and was the mother of William Lykins, a noted lawyer and the first County Judge of Morgan after the adoption of the new constitution in 1850. He served two terms and also was County Attorney.

Mason Williams, a grandson of Elder Williams, was elected State Senator two times, serving from 1835 to 1843. He also served as State Representative from 1847 to 1849.

ELDER GLEN WILLIAMS

I was born in Oklahoma in 1915. I was born of poor but humble and honest parents, the second of three sons. I was reared on the farm and have in one way or another worked hard all my life.

My father was born in the South. In his early baptized by the Church of Christ but later joined the Primitive Baptists. My mother was born in

the North. In her early life she joined the Missionary Baptists and lived faithful to that Church until her death. They were both schoolteachers. My parents were poor and were hard workers. Thus when I was a lad, going occasionally to the Primitive Baptist Church, and in serene conversation with my father I learned a little about the "Hard-shells." And in going to the Missionary Baptist meetings and at my mother's knee I was taught their doctrine. My mother died when I was a boy and my father went broke so I had to quit school and go to work. In the ensuing years I rode the plow, hoed cotton, grubbed mesquite, herded sheep and cattle, rode broncs and most anything else I could get to do in order to make an honest dollar.

Even in my younger days I realized that God governs the affairs of men, and that we poor morsels of animated dust are dependent on Him. So I have prayed to Him, because somehow I felt that I knew He was there, and that He was conscious of me.

From the time I was about ten until after I was thirty, I heard only one sermon by a Primitive Baptist, and that was in a tiny little schoolhouse shortly after the death of my mother. Elder C. J. L. Bolinger preached and used as his text; "What is man that thou art mindful of him." I will never forget the sermon.



In the summer of 1948, I became a member of the Primitive Baptists. My first attempt to speak from the pulpit about a year later and on Saturday before the fifth Sunday in September in 1951 I was ordained to the full work of the ministry.

I have served as County Judge and School Superintendent of the County where I lived and have pastored two small churches.

ELDER H. M. WILLIAMS

WRITTEN BY HIS SON, D.W. WILLIAMS: Elder Williams was born June 7, 1854, and died April 19th, 1927, making his stay on earth nearly 73 years. He was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church about 45 years, and was ordained as a minister on Saturday before the third Sunday in

August 1903. My father loved his church and the things it stood for more than anything else on earth, I think. He was a loving husband and good father. He was wonderfully blessed with health until about two years before his death of heart disease. He suffered a great deal the last year of his illness but he stood it with much patience to the end. It was hard for us to give him up, but we know that God knows best.

ELDER HARDIN WILLIAMS

FROM "HISTORY OF MUD CREEK ASSOCIATION" BY JOANN THOMAS ELKIN: Elder Hardin Williams was a messenger from New Hope Church at the meeting at Mud Creek Church on the third Saturday in November 1821 to constitute the Mud Creek Association. He preached the Introductory Sermon in 1826. In 1823 he was a messenger from Lebanon Church; also in 1824. In 1825, 1826 and 1827 Elder Williams was at Union Church, Marion County, Tennessee. In 1828, a note in the minutes reads: "Elder Hardin Williams is excluded from us though he holds credentials as a minister of the Gospel and refuses to give them up."

ELDER JERALD J. WILLIAMS

Elder Jerald J. Williams was born July 31, 1928 at Terry, MS son of Clyde and Bertie Seal Williams. He married Evelyn Wilkinson of Gloster, MS April 13, 1952 and had three children, Jerald J. Jr., Susan W. Hatten, (wife of Elder W. C. Hatten), and John C.



He joined Plymouth Church, Glostet, MS, November 21, 1954 when he was blessed to see the beauty of God's sovereign Grace and the Truth as it is in Christ Jesus. He was ordained a deacon in July 1959 and an Elder July 29, 1962.

He served Salem Church, Natchez, MS and Plymouth Church, Gloster, MS until his death December 30, 1998. In addition, he briefly served New Bethel Church, Lexie, MS and New Prospect Church, Cleveland, MS.

Elder Williams was a true and faithful servant of God and devoted his life to the Cause of Christ. His preaching was indeed blessed of God, his influence was for good, and he was greatly loved and highly esteemed as he preached God's word among the Old Baptists. Some descriptions of him at the time of his death were: "He was one of the kindest of men," "He was a peaceful man, desiring peace that comes through the Truth," "He was one of our princes in the Kingdom of God." His final testimony just before he departed this life was "God is greater than man."

ELDER JOEL G. WILLIAMS

He was born in Kentucky in the year 1804. He came to Illinois in an early day and united with New Providence Church, where in July 1835 he was ordained to the ministry by Elder William Roberts and others. He served this church as pastor from the time of his ordination until his death in 1879. He also served as clerk of Salem Association for thirty years. He traveled much in the bounds of Salem Association, assisting in the ordination of ministers and constitution of several churches.

ELDER JOHN WILLIAMS

FROM "HISTORY OF MUD CREEK ASSOCIATION" BY JOANN THOMAS ELKIN: Elder John Williams was a messenger from Paint Rock Church to the meeting held at Mud Creek Church on the 3rd Saturday in November 1821 to constitute the Mud Creek Association. He was shown as a messenger from Paint Rock Church almost every year from 1821 through 1847. Elder Williams was moderator from 1834 through 1841 and from 1843 through 1846. He preached the Introductory Sermon in 1830 and 1846.

ELDER LEVI WILLIAMS

SUBMITTED BY SISTER BROOKSIE PITNEY: Elder Williams lived to be over one hundred years old. He was baptized at Thompson Church in May 1940. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry on March 20, 1941. He was a faithful minister, walking in the way one should as

long as he lived. He married Sister Ballard who preceded him in death. They had no children

Elder Williams kept his membership at Thompson Church after he moved to Indiana. He came back when he was able. He loved God's people and his church and he never missed going to church every Sunday as long as his health let him. He served churches in Indiana until his health failed him. He was loved by everyone. Elder Williams passed away in October 1996.

ELDER R. B. WILLIAMS

Was born in Alma, Ill., Marion County Oct. 31, 1904. One of nine children born to Benjamin and Auranda Williams. My parents were loyal Primitive Baptists. They passed on to be with their savior a long time before I joined the church. My wife Leota and I joined the church in 1958. I was ordained to the Ministry in 1963.

ELDER R. H. WILLIAMS

FROM ELDER AFTON RICHARDS IN THE "BANNER OF LOVE" MARCH 1961: Brother Williams, while being a good speaker, is not the kind of an orator that shouts, and rants, and makes a lot of noise and not a showman. He does speak positively, in a plain and convincing manner.

In his manner of approach, he seems to have the same desire as one of the Bible writers when he said, "Come now, let us reason together." He takes a subject or Scripture and reasons with it, as to its foundation, its basis in fact, and in theology. I feel sure he is one of the teachers that the Apostle Paul said the Lord gave to the Church.



While not doing so in a manner calculated to offend, he speaks positively and plainly about the things

he feels are taught in the Scripture.

I feel to know that Brother Williams is one of those who is letting his light so shine in a way that others who see it as they journey along are enabled thereby to glorify God who is in heaven.

REMARKS BY ELDER WILLIAMS: I was born to R. J. and Lucinda Williams on March 5, 1894 at Rubottom, Indian Territory now Oklahoma. I was the youngest of six boys and the eighth of twelve children.

I joined the Methodist church at about the age of 19 principally, because I had been taught that Church membership was not as important as living a godly life, but I was never satisfied with my efforts to live right, nor with my church membership. However, I did nothing about it for nearly 25 years.

I well remember the first truly gospel discourse I ever heard. I went to the Old Baptist Church that day thinking that I would hear some of that "damnable" doctrine which I had been taught to hate. But to my surprise, I did not hear a "damnable doctrine" but the glorious doctrine of salvation by grace.

Elder T. A. Wood who was later to become my father-in law, preached that day on the subject of grace, and, although I told myself over and over that I did not believe it I knew that it was the truth -- the sweetest truth I had ever heard.

Finally, after several years of rebellion, I joined that Old Baptist Church at Wilson, Oklahoma Sept. 5, 1937. Wife and I joined at the same time and were baptized by Elder M. W. Smith the next day.

I was ordained to the ministry here in Salem Church, Jan. 8, 1950. And was called as the pastor the following month. I have tried to serve four churches most of the time since.

ELDER ROMMIE L. WILLIAMS

Elder Rommie Williams was born on March 26, 1947. His father was Deacon Buren Williams, and his mother is Sister Mattie Mullis Williams.

Elder Williams served in the United States Marines from October 1965 until October 1969. He served in active duty in Vietnam from



October 1966 to November, 1967. On June 12, 1967, Elder Williams was wounded, being hit in the neck with rocket shrapnel. He was awarded a Purple Heart, a presidential citation, and was named an expert rifleman.

On November 12, 1967, Elder Williams married Sonya Moss. Elder Rom Kerley conducted the wedding ceremony. Sister Sonya has been his constant companion since that time. Their marriage has been blessed with three sons, Jason, Travis, and Eric. Brother Rommie felt pressed to join the church in June 1978. He and Sister Sonya offered themselves to Pleasant Grove Church at the same time on Saturday afternoon the second weekend in September, and Elder Joe C. Helms baptized them on the 2nd Sunday in September 1978.

All through his life, Elder Williams had felt the feeling that one day he would be a minister. Within a couple of months after joining the church this feeling became stronger. He related this burden to the church the second Saturday of September 1979. He spoke on the floor at conference for about one year. On the second weekend of October 1980, he was given the liberty to speak at any church in the Bear Creek Association. About October 1981, he was given the liberty to go outside of the Bear Creek, to any church with whom Pleasant Grove Church was in fellowship. In 1984, Gift Church, of the Little River Association, in Coats, NC wrote a letter to Pleasant Grove requesting Brother Rommie's ordination. He was ordained on Friday before the second Sunday in July 1984.

Elder Williams went to work for the railroad in February 1970. He retired on disability in January 1997.

Brother Rommie currently pastors New Hope Church, and has standing Sunday appointments at Corinth, Lawyer Springs Church and Mountain Creek Church. He is loved and respected by the churches in the Bear Creek Association in North and South Carolina.

Elder Williams believes in the total depravity of man, and the absolute Sovereignty of God. He believes and preaches that God elected a people before the foundation of the world, and that one day this world will come to an end, and that there will be a general judgment and resurrection of the dead, and that Jesus will come to take His elect family to their eternal home in Heaven. He believes that Jesus set up His church, and that we should add nothing to it nor take anything from it.

ELDER B. F. WILLIAMSON

WRITTEN BY ELDER J. A. MONSEES: This dear brother was born near Roberta, Ga., Sept. 17, 1863; the grandson of Elder Samuel Burnett, a noted minister of the gospel of the Primitive Baptist faith. He was married in early life to Miss Hamlin from which marriage there was born three sons: S. B., C. A., and B. F. Williamson and two daughters, Mrs. W. F. Gross and J. T. Richards. After being delivered from his burden in March 1885, he united with Mount Paron Church in April of the same year; he was soon thereafter liberated to speak in public but for a number of years he fought these impressions and was not actively engaged in preaching. He became submissive, however, and was ordained to the full function of the Gospel Ministry on the 12th day of Sept. 1907. Elders W. J. Heard, J. T. Reynolds, J. A. Young acted as the presbytery. He has served churches in the Echeconee, Ocmulgee, Upatoi and other associations.

After filling his usual appointment at High Shoals on Sat., Nov. 11, 1939, he was suddenly stricken and died in a few minutes at the home of one of the members of the church. Elder Williamson was greatly beloved by the churches he served, also by the large circle of old Baptists and friends and he will be greatly missed. He was a kind, affectionate husband and father, and was generous and kind to the poor. He served several times as moderator of the Echeconee Association.

ELDER BOBBY WILLIS

I was born in 1947 in Bay Minette, Alabama to godly parents who were Primitive Baptist. Dad was ordained a Deacon when I was a child. He had a great voice to sing and was also blessed to be a great exhorter. I was raised up to pray and I still believe in it as strongly as ever. I began to realize that something was “going on” in me that I could not explain when I was 13 years old. I first was called on to introduce when I was 16.



My job played out and we had to move to Dothan, AL. Elder Ralph Harris would be my pastor and gave me much encouragement. Elder J. T. Bush of Panama City, FL took me under his wing and taught me more fully as a kind, gentle father in the ministry should. This was during the time that my home church in Graceville, FL was exercising me.

Our son, Jason, was born at the same time that these feelings were so strong to tell the world about my Lord and what great things HE had done for me. Jason was special. He would prove to be bright and mature for his age as he grew. But, he was born with no thighbone in his right leg. He has surgery at 15 months, a foot removed so that he would be able to wear an artificial leg. I left my job of three weeks and went with my wife to Greenville, SC for his surgery. I took odd jobs there for three weeks while he was in the hospital. God took care of us in our time of need. The Lord blessed Kathryn and I with two girls as well.

I was ordained in June of 1974. My ministry started very slowly. I pastored a number of churches in South Alabama from 1974 until Dec. 1989. My wife and I moved to Amory, MS where I pastored the church at Hatley for almost nine years. We returned to Bethany Church, in Mobile, AL in June of 1998

ELDER EDGAR R. WILLIS

FROM “GOSPEL APPEAL.” He was born April 19, 1893, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Willis. In January 1916, he married Lou Ethel Smith and they were blessed with six children. He joined Old Ty Ty Primitive Baptist Church, near Tifton, Georgia, in March 1923 and was baptized by

Elder A. L. Pierce. Later the church recognized a gift in him and on Oct. 11, 1935, he was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry by Elders N.L. Sutton, McMillan and A.L. Pierce. The first church he was called to serve was Mt. Zion Church near Cooleage, Ga.

In the 40 years of his ministerial service he pastored many churches including his home church (Old Ty Ty); Little Rock (Lamont, Fla.); Live Oak (near Moultrie, Ga.); Pleasant Grove (between Adel and Nashville, Ga.); Mt. Horeb (near Pinetta, Fla.); Indian Creek (near Moultrie, Ga.); Irene (Ray City, Ga.); Mt. Paron (Alapaha, Ga.); Oak Grove (near Valdosta, Ga.); and Mt. Pisgah (near Thomasville, Ga.).

Brother Edgar loved to sing and had a beautiful treble voice. He especially loved the old hymn "Did Christ O'er Sinners Weep." He always called this "the old turpentine song." As he entered the meeting house he always walked in singing. His preaching was clear, sweet and ever in accord with the teachings of the scriptures.

ELDER J. G. WILLIS

Elder J.G. Willis was born August 1, 1897 in Estill County KY, the son of Elder Merle Willis, a United Baptist Minister. He and his six brothers and sisters grew up in a godly home and an atmosphere rich in the letter of the Word. After his marriage, in 1919, to Florence Miller, his life long companion, Elder Willis moved his family to the vicinity of Hamilton, Ohio. Brother Willis was a great lover and student of the Bible, and through out his life he had little else to talk about. His love and devotion for the Scriptures soon brought about dissatisfaction with the inconsistencies with the United Baptists, and an appreciation for the doctrine and practice of the Primitive Baptists.



Elder Willis was familiar with the Hamilton Primitive Baptist Church, and later said that he always knew that it was his home. He did not, however, join the church at Hamilton because of many obvious errors,

including a pastor who had a reputation of very progressive leanings. Instead he joined a Primitive Baptist Church at some distance, where he began to exercise his gift. Still, his burden for the church at Hamilton couldn't be ignored, and in 1950, he joined the Hamilton Church by letter.

J. G.'s gift was soon recognized and he began the painful task of "Cry loud and spare not, show unto Israel her sins." Elder Willis was ordained and called to pastor the Church in 1958 and although his lot was to sow in tears, he was blessed to reap in joy. He saw members of the Hamilton Church come out from among the world and renounce Free Masonry, put away adultery, remove idolatrous pictures of Christ from their meeting house, and restore fellowship with orderly churches across the country.

On Sunday morning August 20, 1967, Elder J.G. Willis fell asleep in Jesus while preaching the gospel of Christ at the Hamilton Church. He died of a heart attack while in a big way of preaching. He had said many times that this was the way he would like to die, telling the children of God what a wonderful Savior they have.

ELDER A. WILSON

FROM "PRIMITIVE MONITOR" WRITTEN BY ELDER S. B. MOFFETT: Brother Wilson was born in Schuyler County, Illinois, of Methodist parentage. His first marriage was to Miss Mary Ellen Ausmus, October 23, 1866, daughter of Elder Peter Ausmus. Brother and Sister Wilson were baptized into the fellowship of the Primitive Baptist Church by Elder James Harper, the second Sunday in March 1879. Sister Wilson died August 15, 1880. His second marriage was to Mrs. Margaret Ann Campbell, November 15, 1881, the daughter of Deacon Joshua P. and Susan Ann Singleton, of Brown County, Illinois.

Elder Wilson was convicted of sin when quite young and felt his sins forgiven in the month of March 1860, and then finding his experience so different from the teachings of the Methodist church he began searching the Scriptures to find the doctrine that accorded with his experience. So fully convinced was he that his belief was different from that of any one else; for he felt he must extol the name of Christ above every other name in heaven nor on earth, insomuch that the Methodists discarded him. And feeling called of God to proclaim the truth he began preaching in the year 1872, in south Kansas. Some brother living at a distance heard that one

Achilles Wilson, was "preaching the doctrine of election, predestination and final perseverance of the saints through grace to glory," went to visit him, and after hearing him preach gave him the right hand of fellowship and admonished him to go home to his friends and tell them what great things the Lord had done for him, which he did, as above stated, and was soon licensed to preach wherever God in his providence cast his lot. He was ordained to the full functions of the gospel ministry Saturday before the second Sunday in July, 1882, by the following presbytery: Elder S. A. Elkins, D. W. Owens, James Harper, B. R. Warren, S. L. Dark, and T. B. Ausmus, and Deacons J. P. Singleton, and James M. Parker, since which time he has devoted a great deal of his time to traveling and preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ. He is at present pastor of Little Zion Church, situated at Oakville, Washington, the place of his present residence.

ELDER A. R. WILSON

ELDER WILSON WROTE OF HIMSELF IN 1969: I was born to Franklin W. and Virginia Wilson February 4, 1890. I was about the middle child of ten children. I am a Veteran of World War One. I entered the mail service in Houston, Texas Oct 10, 1921 and retired December 31 at Groesbeck, Texas.

I married Miss Ruby Knox September 4, 1922. We have two boys and one girl.

After a very vivid experience in Grace, I joined the Methodist Church August 15, 1915. I soon became dissatisfied and moved around among different Faiths, until I quit them all in disgust in 1927. I began studying the Bible for myself, and finally joined the Primitive Baptist in May 1942. I was baptized by Elder J. A. Rowell the third Sunday in May 1912.



I began exercising in a public way and was ordained to the ministry the fourth Sunday in October, 1950 at Flynn, Texas, by the authority of Shiloh Church, with the following

Presbytery: Elder R.V. Holleman, who was Pastor, Elder J.A. Rowell, Elder H. G. White, Elder Dave Jennings, and Elder J. M. Fannin.

Shortly thereafter, I was called to the care of three Churches, and since have pastored three and then two Churches. I trust that I am a sinner saved by Grace. I love the Lord, I love the Brethren, and I love the Church, and the principles it teaches and whatever service God enables me to render I am willing to render freely, only asking the Lord's presence and blessings as a reward of my feeble efforts.

NOTE: Elder Wilson passed from this life in 1972.

ELDER JAMES B. WILSON

FROM AN OBITUARY IN THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST: On August 12, 1956, Elder James B. Wilson, Twin City, Ga., for 38 years an active pastor of churches in the Original Upper Canoochee and Lott's Creek Associations, and for 30 years clerk and moderator of the Original Upper Canoochee Association, departed this life to be with Christ. Elder Wilson was born in Johnson County, Ga., in 1871. He was the son of James and Elizabeth Greenway Wilson. Elder Wilson received no schooling until after he was 21 years of age. But with determination and the help of others, he began to attend school, obtaining enough education to begin teaching. After many years of experience, in order to continue teaching, it was required that he have a high school certificate. He attended high school one year and received the certificate, at about 50 years of age. Then, in order to continue as head of his school, it was necessary to have a college degree. He went to college, and at the age of 60 received a B. S. degree. During this time, he also studied law and was admitted to the bar. He was engaged in teaching for more than 40 years, and was principal of the first accredited school in Emanuel County.

Brother Wilson united with Long Creek Church near Summertown, Ga., on May 9, 1903. His membership was moved to New Hope Church in 1904, where he was ordained to the ministry August 9, 1908, to become the first pastor of Bethel Church, near Twin City, Ga., where he served for many years, and where his membership was when he died. He served, first as clerk, and then as moderator, of the Original Upper Canoochee Association, continuously for 30 years. During this time, he was serving as pastor, at different times, of most of the churches of this association.

Elder Wilson was first married to Miss Vina Martin, of Stillmore, Ga. One son, Grady, was born to this marriage. This companion passed away about 1920. Brother Wilson and Sister Leslie Hill Cowart were married in 1921. Sister Leslie was so faithful to him in his last years, in his feebleness following a stroke in 1946. But her strength failed, and she preceded him in death by a few months.

ELDER JOE D. WILSON

SUBMITTED BY FRED ENOS: This faithful soldier of the cross was born on Nov. 2, 1942. Convicted of sin, knowing that without Christ and His grace he would be a wretch undone, he joined the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ at Hephzibah on the third Sunday of March 1964. In the summer of '68, he was placed into the office of Deacon, then he was set at liberty on the third Sunday of June 1971. Three years later, after exercising the gift that God gave him, he was set into the full gospel ministry on Feb 9, 1974. The presbytery was formed of seven elders: William Hudmon, Jerry M. Hunt, Sr., two brothers, Bailey and Albert Wilson, Thomas Mobeley, Glenn Burdette, and W. E. Hawkins. He has been blessed to serve six churches: Pleasant Grove (1974-75), Sharron ('75-'79), Salem ('78-'79), Lanette ('81-'84), Mt. Moriah ('81-'90) and Concord ('95-98). He was married in December 1969 to Wanda Hood, and this union brought forth two children, Chris and Robin.

While at Mt. Moriah, God blessed his hand in the whited field of the gospel kingdom. God indeed gives the increase! Like Peter, this brother is not well educated, yet he boldly stands for the truth that salvation is by grace and grace alone. During his pilgrimage here below, he has suffered many hardships: from his sister falling asleep in the arms of a loving Saviour before his eyes; to his daughter suffering cancer, but because of God she now lives and is cancer free; churches divided; through many temptations in the flesh; and in poverty, the Lord has kept him by his power.

ELDER J. R. WILSON

WRITTEN BY LOUISE WINN: In memory of our dear pastor, Elder J. R. Wilson, the son of the late William Madison and Sarah Louvania

Gauldin Wilson. He was born May 30, 1877, in Henry County, Virginia, and departed this life Sunday afternoon, July 7, 1963, at the General Hospital, Martinsville, Virginia.

He was married to Miss Lilly Ward Baker in 1901, and two daughters were born to this union.

Brother Wilson and his family moved to Indianapolis, Indiana when he was a young man. It was there the Lord impressed in his heart that He had a chosen people in this world and he began to search, trying to find them. One Sunday he found a little church across town from where he lived and they were having preaching, went inside and sat in the back of the church. After preaching he went forward and told his experience, that he felt he was sent there, and he loved them and was satisfied, but wanted them to know more about him before they took him into the church.

Brother Wilson united with the Primitive Baptist Church in 1907, was baptized by Elder Wilson Thompson. He was ordained in 1908 and pastored churches in Indianapolis until 1912, when he moved back to Danville, Virginia.

In 1926, Elder Wilson organized Claiborne Street Church of which he and his wife were members. He was our faithful pastor for thirty-six years and our only pastor.

He pastored Old Mill Church at Sutherlin, Virginia for forty-seven years, and many other churches in Virginia and North Carolina.

He was widely known, loved and respected for the truth and his ability to defend the doctrine that he loved.

Brother Wilson and his family moved to Martinsville, Virginia in 1934. It was there his dear wife passed away. He and his two daughters lived together until he passed away quietly to that eternal home. Brother Wilson was blessed with a sound and clear mind to the end, and was unable to attend his church only six months, but he loved the Lord and his church, and enjoyed the members and friends visiting him and talking about God's grace and mercy.

ELDER KENNETH WILSON

I was born on December 7, 1937 in Pineville, Kentucky the fourth child of seven born to Ethel Harriet Wilder Wilson and Mark Wilson.

In 1951, when I was 13 years old, my family moved to Michigan. I graduated from Clarenceville High School in Livonia, Michigan in 1955. I saved my money for a year and purchased a car when I was 18 years old and would then take my grandfather Elder Levi Saylor to church. At this time, I felt an impression to preach, but I was not even a member of the church as yet. When I was 20, I met my future wife Diane Squair and we were married when I was 22 years old on September 3, 1960 in a double wedding ceremony performed by my grandfather Elder Levi Saylor along with my youngest sister Neecie Wilson and Otis Buell. My wife and I attended church intermittently and I began to have a recurring dream that I would die when I was 30 years old.



The summer that I was 29, I had a lawn cutting service and was mowing a yard when I heard a voice say "Ken," I looked around but saw no one. Then I heard the voice again say "Ken," I stopped mowing and heard the voice say, "Go and preach to your kindred." I did not know what to do; as I was not even a church member and thought my kindred must be my immediate family members. Over the next year, the Lord revealed himself to my wife and I and we had many blessed experiences in the Lord, seeing ourselves as sinners ruined and undone and He as our Saviour.

On March 24, 1968, when I was 30 years old, my wife and I joined Pontiac Church and were baptized on Easter Sunday April 15, 1968 with six others including two of my sisters and my brother-in-law. Soon my experience to go and preach returned to me and I realized that my kindred were the family of God. I began to take part in the services and was ordained to the ministry on June 15, 1969. In January of 1982, I was released by the Pontiac Church to serve the Monroe Church in Monroe, Michigan as moderator and have been trying to pastor this precious body of people since that time. My wife and I moved our membership to Monroe Church on June 17, 1984. Surely I can say, "His goodness and

mercy endureth forever" as he has dealt with this poor creature over his life. My desire is that I may dwell with Him all the days of my life.

ELDER OSWELL WOODROW WILSON

Elder Wilson was born on November 10, 1916. He was baptized in 1933 at the Peasant Hill Church in Hurricane Grove, Montgomery County, Arkansas.

He is married to Ardelle Ann Wheeler July 15, 1935 until her death March 1994. Married to Opal Sims Morvant January 1995. Elder Woodrow Wilson, Brother Woody to most, was probably born a Primitive Baptist. There are stories about as a young boy he would make all the neighborhood kids listen to him "preach" while standing on a stump. After years of searching for the Truth, Brother Woody found his home in the church in 1933 and joined the Pleasant Hill Church, Hurricane Grove, Arkansas. And he was baptized Elder Manuel A. Norman.



Elder Wilson moved to Texas shortly after high school graduation and he has resided in Southeast Texas since 1935. He attended law school in Beaumont, Texas and was a licensed attorney for over 50 years. Brother Woody worked in the church for several years after coming to Texas and was a charter member of Paradise Church, which was constituted in November 1941. Shortly thereafter, Brother Woody was liberated (February 1942) to preach the doctrine by the membership of Paradise Church. He was ordained in January 1943.

Elder Wilson has served several churches in Texas and Louisiana, both as pastor or associate. Beginning in 1943 he pastored Harmony Church in Dry Prong, Louisiana, for 17 years. He pastored Houston Church from 1945-1958. He served Paradise Church as its pastor. In 1960, Elder Wilson helped charter the Vidor Church in Vidor, Texas and served as its only pastor until the mid-nineties. He has pastored

Fellowship Church since 1944. He still pastors and is a member of that church.

In 1960, Elder Wilson was elected President of the Primitive Baptist Comforter, Inc., which published a paper (The Comforter) and produced a radio program (The Hour of Comfort).

Elder Wilson had a vision of having a singing school to preserve the music for future generation. So, with the support and help of many others, he was instrumental in founding the Melody Grove Singing School in 1973. The school is still very active and will hold its 28th session in 2000.

Elder Wilson, through God's guidance has always made sure the MESSAGE is and always will be more important than the messenger. He is a devout man who practices what he preaches, loves freely and truly walks in amazing grace.

ELDER RICHARD WILSON

SUBMITTED BY HIS GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER, NEETCIE BUELL: Elder Wilson was born to Henry and Margaret (Sparks) Wilson on November 22, 1838 in Bell County, Kentucky. He married Mary Ann Hurst in 1839. Ten children were born to them.

His son Richard D. Wilson also became a preacher in the Primitive Baptist Church, and his great Grandson Elder Kenneth Wilson of South Lyons, Michigan.

He preached in the Powell Valley Association churches. He passed away on April 27, 1900.

ELDER RICHARD D. WILSON

WRITTEN BY HIS GRANDDAUGHTER, NEETCIE BUELL: Elder Wilson was born to Elder Richard Wilson and Mary Elizabeth Hurst Wilson in Cabbage, Kentucky, on June 17, 1877.

He was married to Lucy Hoskins in 1896. Thirteen children were born to them

Somewhere in the early 1900's, Richard felt a call from the Lord for him to go and preach the gospel. He was raised in a Primitive Baptist home and heard his own father preach often. But he feared that he was



not qualified to be a preacher. So, he ran from his calling.

Then a growth appeared on his nose. It grew as big around as your little finger and hung down from his nose to his lips. He said it was an ugly thing to look at!

The growth stayed on his nose for a long time. Until one day, he was made willing to preach and to obey his call. He fell on his face before the Lord and vowed that he would go and preach the gospel like he was told to.

After this vow was made, the growth on his nose just fell off. And it never returned!

He placed God first in his life, and often he set out walking at 3 A.M. to go across the mountain to make it to church on time. After services it would be dark when he arrived back home.

His membership was at the Cannon Creek Church in Kentucky. Those who talk of his preaching say that he always was blessed and that he sat down quick and never worried the congregation.

Richard developed lung cancer and passed away on July 11, 1948.

ELDER ROBERT DERIAS WILSON

Elder Robert Derias Wilson, commonly known as R. D. Wilson, of Booneville, Kentucky, was born April 3, 1916, and died Thursday,

November 5, 1987. He was the son of Robert and Rhoda Peters Wilson. He was pastor of Rock Springs Primitive Baptist Church, Green Hall, Kentucky, and Shady Dale Primitive Baptist Church, Paris, Kentucky. He was also a retired carpenter.

He is survived by his wife, Geneva Davis Wilson, two sons, James and Wayne, all of Booneville; four sisters, Dallas Sexton, Island City, Kentucky, Ruby Brewer, Booneville, Bertha and Oral Brewer of Cincinnati, Ohio; and four grandchildren.

Elder Wilson united with Rock Springs Church in January 1953, and was ordained to the gospel ministry in December 1957. He demonstrated a great love for the militant church and for his Saviour, and it was his desire to see Zion grow and be blessed to come into unity and knowledge of God's sovereign grace and truth.

Elder Wilson, for many years, had faithfully declared the gospel of sovereign grace and had zealously performed the duties of a true undershepherd of the flock, as he was blessed of God with a great gift and was able to perform it well. He was able to instruct his fellow servants in the ministry in love if any discord arose.

ELDER R. E. WILSON

WRITTEN BY HIS SON, OLAN WILSON: Robert E. Wilson, born November 17, 1891, was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1916 at Bethlehem Church in Knox County, Texas. Elder A. B. Hughes, pastor of the church at the time, and Elder W. H. Richards, among others, were members of the presbytery. I think Elder Richards delivered the charge to the candidate, how he should serve in the work to which he was chosen.



In 1918, Elder Wilson moved to Ellis County, Texas. Here he found an open field with not enough laborers. Mt. Peak Church had gone down since the death of Elder S. A. Paine in 1912 and the church was no longer having services. Elder Wilson was asked to have an appointed day at the

old church and in 1920; the church was reorganized with about a dozen members. By 1930, the church had grown to about one hundred members. Elder Wilson pastored a number of churches in the central Texas area and at times was serving one Sunday a month at four different churches. His ministry extended over more than forty years. Elder Wilson passed away January 10, 1964.

ELDER TERRY VON WILSON

I was born on May 26, 1961. My parents are Von P. Wilson and Lila Jean Davis Wilson who live near Galax, Virginia.

In 1985, I began dating Sandra who became my wife on February 28, 1986. She belonged to Cross Roads Church where she had been a member for several years. I began attending Primitive Baptist meetings out of respect for her, not believing any thing that was preached. The only thing I saw that seemed right, was the love shown by the congregation to each member and visitor. This seemed to be a special love that I had not seen in other place. After awhile, still not believing the doctrine I was hearing, I began a diligent study of God's Word and the Articles of Faith of the Primitive Baptist Church. My goal, in this effort, was to prove them wrong. To my surprise, the more I studied the more my eyes were opened to the truths of God's Word. On June 15, 1991, I asked for a home in the Primitive Baptist Church and was received with open arms. I was baptized into the fellowship of the church.



After attending our meetings for a while I began to feel a strong desire to preach, but felt this must be just a fleeing earthly thought. This feeling would not go away. When I did finally tell some brethren my feelings it seemed they were all aware of this, as they were not surprised. I ask the Church for liberty to speak on July 18, 1992 and was granted this request. I was ordained to the work of Gospel Ministry on September 18, 1993.

At this time, I pastor Blue Ridge and Peach Bottom Churches. I have had many wonderful experiences in trying to serve God's people, but one

of the most memorable was having the opportunity to baptize my mother and father into the membership of the Primitive Baptist Church.

May each of us continue to live in the way God would have us live, and to be a strength to each other as we walk in a troubled world.

ELDER JACOB WINCHELL

Jacob Winchell was born in Olive, Ulster County, New York on November 28, 1797, the son of Dea. Peter Winchell and Sarah Hollister. He professed a hope in Christ on August 4, 1816 and united with the



Church the following October. On July 24, 1819, he married Sarah Ann Van Velsen, the daughter of his pastor, Eld. Jonathan Van Velsen and Elizabeth Lockwood. Jacob and Sallie raised eleven children on their farm on Tice Ten Eyck Mountain in Ashokan, NY.

In addition to holding several town offices, Jacob was clerk of the Church for a number of years, and afterwards a deacon. In 1853, he was ordained to the ministry and served as Pastor of the Olive & Hurley Church, which station he filled until called away by death in 1867.

As Gilbert Beebe said of him, "In a long and familiar acquaintance of nearly half a century; nothing has ever occurred to mar the fellowship and Christian love which was enjoyed by us mutually from our earliest acquaintance. Brother Winchell was sound in the faith and an uncompromising advocate of truth and good order. His walk and deportment were exemplary. He was remarkable for his humility and unpretended meekness. About two hours before his last breath, he said to those standing around him, 'Contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. - Live in peace and union. - Farewell, brethren.' "

ELDER VAUGHN WINSLETT

I was born March 23, 1959. I spent most of my childhood on a horse farm in Shelby Co. In 1976, I met my wife, Linda. On April 14, 1979, we were married by Elder Lloyd Hand and are blessed with a son Benjamin, his wife Rachel, and their son, Ethan, and our youngest son, Joshua.



On August 10, 1975, I was baptized at Davis Lake on Highway 25 in Shelby County by Elder Hand. I have been a member of the Ebenezer Church since that time. On June 26, 1994, I was set at liberty to preach. On September 11, 1994, I was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry. After much prayer and many tears I followed the Lord's lead and was ordained. I have pastored the church at Ebenezer since 1995. I also serve a church below North Port, Alabama, which is named Bethlehem.

I worked as a carpenter in my early life, but have been a police officer for the last 17 years.

ELDER JAMES WINSTON

I was born on November 25, 1934 and was brought up in the Landmark Missionary church. I met Aleta Milholen while we were in school and soon we were thinking of getting married. Aleta was raised in the Primitive Baptist Church. She commented that we did not believe alike. I said that it should not matter as long as we both believe John 3:16. She said, "I believe John 3:16, but not like you do." After we were married, I started going to her church. The Lord blessed me to see and understand what John 3:16 truly meant. I have rejoiced in His Truth ever since.



I was ordained in July 1969 and I have served churches in Waldren, Prescott, Kirby and Hot Springs, all in the State of Arkansas. Presently, I

am serving Fuller Chapel Church in North Little Rock and have been there for 27 years.

My wife and I are blessed with three children—two sons and a daughter. Many are the rich experiences that Lord have blessed me with, so many that I cannot number them. He has led me to the House of my Master's brethren and His banner over me was love.

ELDER LARRY WISE

I was afflicted with a childhood illness that left me an invalid for a number of years during which time I was not particularly drawn to the church or the gospel. The Lord blessed my body to respond to therapy and recover to the degree I could do things for myself, but I could not see how anyone still so unable to provide for himself could ever be baptized. I began to think about joining the church but wondered how or if I could be baptized considering my physical condition. All these fears seemed to disappear during a special meeting as I was drawn to ask for a home in Bethany Church during the handshake at the conclusion of services. The church received me and I was baptized in June 1968 by Elder Gassaway of Saltillo, MS. I was baptized in my Uncle's small pond, and all my prior concerns abated as no problem arose during the baptism as previously feared.

I grew up under Elder J.D. Holder's preaching, and then under Elder E.D. McCutcheon, whom I consider my father in the ministry. Elder James Allen Rushing was assisting Elder Holder in his duties as pastor of Bethany because of his physical disability. It was Elder Rushing that asked me to introduce services, and I suppose it was the Lord's will that led me to make the attempt. I remember speaking from the tenth chapter of John in my first effort. I continued to introduce services and fill appointments from time to time after Elder E.D. McCutcheon became pastor of Bethany and in time the church called for my ordination. I submitted to the Lord's call first and then to the church's call to the ministry and was ordained to the full work of the ministry on Sept. 11, 1976 with thirteen Elders and twelve deacons sitting in the presbytery with Elder McCutcheon as Moderator who preached my charge. This was just months after I had graduated from the University of Mississippi with a degree in accounting.

Antioch Church in Oxford, MS asked me to become their pastor soon after my ordination. I accepted their call and served that church for 10 years until 1977. Antioch was not meeting every Sunday during part of the time I was pastor, and this allowed me to accept the call to pastor Shiloh Church at Coffeeville, MS where Elder W.C. Moak had been the pastor.

I served Shiloh for two years before resigning to preach one Sunday a month at my home church at Bethany. When I left Antioch Church in Oxford, MS, I served Hopewell Church near Randolph, MS for four years.

In the meantime, the Lord had blessed me with a wonderful wife named Sandra Quarles whom the Lord allowed to love a sinner like me. We were united in marriage on May 25, 1985 with Elder Bob Ward officiating. The Lord has blessed us with two fine boys, and, as this is being written in January 2000, a third one is on the way. It is a great blessing that my wife is also a Primitive Baptist and has been able to accompany me on most of my preaching appointments. She truly is a helpmeet.

Bethany Church near Ecu, MS called me to be their full time pastor in Oct. 1991, and I resigned at Hopewell and began to serve my home church preaching there every Sunday. I continue to pastor at Bethany as this is being written in January 2000.

I have been made acquainted with many ministers during the intervening years but am especially thankful to Elder E.D. McCutcheon for his influence and encouragement throughout the years. Elder Max Ewing and Elder Bob Ward also occupy a great place in my heart, but none can supersede the Lord.

ELDER A. D. WOOD

Elder Wood was born in DeWitt County, Texas on March 22, 1899, and moved with his family to Glen Rose, Texas, at the age of nine months. He lived there until eighteen years old and moved to Wellington, Texas. He and Violet Neeley were married in 1924, and they moved back to Glen Rose in 1938. He was ordained deacon in 1930, and ordained as minister on the third Sunday in October 1933. His uncle, the late Elder J.

S. Newman, was in his ordination. Elder Wood traveled and preached in several states, always upholding Bible principles and endeavoring for peace among God's people.



After his ordination, Brother Wood pastored the Glen Rose Primitive Baptist Church. He has also pastored churches in Dallas and Corsicana and was publisher and editor of *The Primitive Baptist Light* for many years.

Elder Wood passed away in an automobile accident on September 30, 1983, at the age of eighty-four years. Elders L. C. Swanner and N. W. Asbell officiated at the funeral of Brother Wood when he was buried at Post Oak Cemetery.

He was preceded in death by a set of triplets in 1926, and a son in 1929.

ELDER CONWAY WOOD

Conway Wood was born July 6, 1923 in Teacross Community near Hollis in Harmon County Oklahoma. His parents, David A and Annie McCarty Wood were strongly of the Primitive Baptist faith having been baptized in 1912 by Elders J. R. McCarty and J. A. Jones respectively, into the Salt Fork Primitive Baptist Churches near Vinson, Oklahoma.



In the summer of 1944, Conway united with Salt Fork Church and was baptized by Elder Floyd Pittman.

On September 4, 1954, Conway Wood was ordained by the presbytery formed at Salt Fork Church and composed of the following: Elders: CC Lawler, NM Cosby, LB Harden, CR McClure and DF Hart; Deacons: DA Sudduth, DB Morrow, Pearl Miller, CT Burns, SC Meadows, Jim Chambers, JR Morgan, Lloyd L Walker, GL Burch and JH Rogers.

Elder Wood has served the fellowship of churches: Sharon in the Western Oklahoma association; Dill City, Oklahoma, Mountain View, Cortez Colorado, Mt. Zion, Benton Louisiana, Salem, Big Fork Arkansas. He served as association clerk for the Western Oklahoma association and as moderator of the original Rich Mountain association of Arkansas and continues to serve in that capacity.

He has married many couples and baptized several among them, his wife being his first candidate.

Elder Wood has conducted many funerals and his preaching efforts have been widespread over the following States: Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Arizona, and Oregon.

He has earnestly tried to defend and uphold the doctrines and order of the church to which he feels the oracles were committed to him; first by God himself, second by his church and third the presbytery. He has been well accepted by the Primitive Baptist people and the general public as well and continues to beg God's grace and solicits the prayers of God's children everywhere.

His life having had mixtures of joy and sorrow, has been supported through all of his trials by his loving wife, Eunice and three sons, Barry, Brad and Bobby and a daughter, Robin and his fellow ministers and brethren.

He supported his family by being employed in Administration by the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Indian affairs.

ELDER FRANK WOOD

I was born on September 15, 1925 to H. L. and Janie Wood and grew up in Hackleburg, Alabama.

I served in the Navy air force in WWII and was assigned to the USS Bismark SEA. CVA in the Pacific theatre. We made three invasions: Layington, Luzon and Iwo Jima, where the Japanese sunk our ship by two kamikazes. I was in the sea; hurting and bleeding from my eyes, nose and mouth. I was picked up by a destroyer and then transferred to a hospital ship. While I was on this ship, every gun stopped firing—no noise could

be heard. From my hospital bed, it was announced that the Americans had raised Old Glory on the top of a volcano on Iwo Jima. I have never so much shouting and praying as I heard that day. Thank the Lord, we had won the fight.



I went home for a thirty-day leave and met a little girl that I had seen at a sacred harp singing school. We were soon married.

We moved to Montgomery, Alabama and joined New Hope Church. Afterwards, we and six others moved our membership to Fairmont Church in Sylacauga, Alabama. They extended us an arm to build a new church. We were in our new building in October 1963. I was ordained on December 18, 1965. The Lord has blessed me to serve this church for 35 years. Elders K. W. Yaeger, John Williams and A. L. Beckett and myself have been pastors. We have 62 members now and are a member of the Lower Wetumpka Association of Alabama.

ELDER N. J. WOOD

FROM AN OBITUARY IN "MESSENGER OF PEACE," SEPTEMBER 1938: Brother Wood, of Middle River Church, Madison, Co., Iowa, died July 11, 1938, after a lingering illness. He was born Feb. 5, 1861. Sister Wood was Miss Viana Colton, whom he married Dec. 2, 1883. They had five children

He united with the church about thirty years ago. In 1925, he was ordained to the ministry and was exceedingly faithful to the churches near him. As pastor and moderator he was highly esteemed.

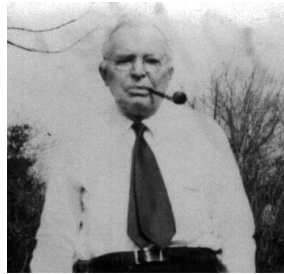
ELDER STEVEN L. WOOD

Elder Wood was born Jan. 1881, died May 18, 1937. He began preaching about 1902. He was the pastor of the following churches at the

time of his death, --Indian Creek, Cabin Creek, Little Vine, (his home church) Princeton and Pilgrims Rest.

He had been Moderator of the Indian Creek Association for thirteen years. He always performed his duties with a godly zeal and tenderness, even, with those that were not at all times at peace with each other. He surely was a great and noble peacemaker. Always ready to go if his services were needed or wanted by the different churches in the Association. He traveled a lot among the other Associations that we were in correspondence with. He preached a wonderful discourse on Sunday at 11 A. M. and baptized two into the church that evening. He had devoted practically all his time to the churches for the last several years, not being physically able to do any labor with his hands. Oh how short it all seemed to us, but we must bow unto the God that Brother Wood was willing to spend and be spent for and say, "Thy will be done."

ELDER ALBERT WOODALL



Elder Albert Woodall was born in Kentucky, May 16, 1877 and moved to Arkansas with his parents when he was a small boy. He was married to Narcisus Hunt and they raised a family of 14 children, 12 of whom lived to be grown. Five of their children were Primitive Baptists, and two of their sons were Elders: Elder Ernest M. Woodall and Elder Wesley W. Woodall.

Elder Albert Woodall died in April 1949 at the age of 72.

ELDER ERNEST M. WOODALL

Elder Ernest M. Woodall was born at Paron, Arkansas Sept. 5, 1906 to Elder Albert Woodall and Narcisus Hunt Woodall. On February 16, 1929, he married Eliza Taylor. To them was born one daughter. He and Sister Woodall joined the church on the first Sunday in



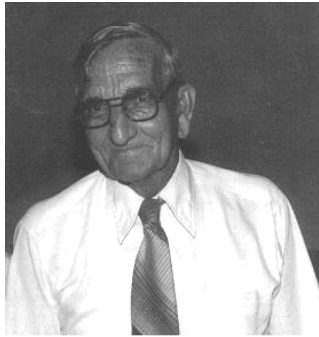
April 1931. He was ordained to the ministry the first Sunday in June 1950. Elder Woodall Served Fuller Chapel Church, and New Hope Church in North Little Rock, Hopewell Church near Heber Springs, Old Salem Church, Gravesville, Arkansas, Little Vine Church, Blue Mountain, Arkansas and Bethesda Church at Camden, Arkansas. He also traveled far and wide to associations and annual meetings. Elder Woodall died April 9, 1981 at the age of 74.

ELDER WESLEY WOODALL

Elder Wesley W. Woodall was the youngest son of Elder Albert Woodall and Sister Narcisus Hunt Woodall. He was the brother of Ernest Woodall. He was ordained to the ministry September 29, 1957, by Fuller Chapel Church in North Little Rock. Elders in the presbytery included J. B. Parker, James Douglas, W. A. Clayton, Sam J. Hall, Ray Piles, C. E. Rose, and E. M. Woodall. R. F. Rienke served as Moderator and W. A. Clark as the Clerk. Nineteen deacons were also in the presbytery. Elder Woodall died on July 1972 at the age of 52.

ELDER CORNELIUS OZARIS WOODLEY

Elder C.O. Woodley was born January 18, 1902 and died January 11, 1986. He married Lena Bailey on October 25, 1925. They had two children, Ethelene Woodley, and Terry Leo Woodley.



He joined Pleasant Grove Primitive Baptist Church, Mt. Zion Association, in October 1930. He was ordained on July 4, 1942. Elder Woodley served Pleasant Grove Church from 1945 until his death in 1986 as a dedicated pastor.

He also served Liberty, Friendship, Hamilton, Mt. Olive, Siloam, and New Lebanon Churches through the years. He is a son of Elder F.M. Woodley.

ELDER FRANCIS MARION WOODLEY

Elder F. M. Woodley was born May 26, 1867, and died December 11, 1946. He married Anna Ada Tarrence. They were blessed with twelve children.



He was a member in the Little Vine Association, Alabama. He served several churches in that Association, including Old Union, Enon, Rock Creek, Clear Creek, and Jim's Creek in Itawamba

County, Mississippi. He was moderator at the Little Vine Association in 1912. He was a faithful servant and dedicated preacher when times were really hard. He rode his little mule to churches in the good weather and bad.

ELDER ISAAC SIMON WOODLEY



Elder I. S. Woodley was born June 1, 1892, and died September 25, 1955. He married Bertha Estelle Wisener on January 14, 1912. They were blessed with eight children.

He was a member of Pleasant Grove Church, Mt. Zion Association. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry in 1928 at Pleasant Grove Church. He was a son of Elder F.M. Woodley.

ELDER J. S. WOODLEY

FROM A RESOLUTION OF RESPECT IN THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST:
Elder Woodley passed away on September 25, 1955. He joined Pleasant Grove Church in August 1929. Although he was not able to attend church or the last few years that he lived, members who visited him saw him render praise to his heavenly Master.

ELDER M. H. WOODS

WRITTEN BY ELDER BILL CARAWAY, GRANDSON OF ELDER M. H. WOODS: Malkiga Highsmith Woods was born in Leander, Williamson County, Texas, February 16, 1875 to Elder John Elliott and Rosie (Gage) Woods.

On May 16, 1894, Mr. M. H. Woods was married to Miss Sarah Jane Killgore at Georgetown, Williamson Co. Texas at 11 a. m. in the home of her parents, Elder Henry and Arzela Killgore. Elder J. E. Woods performed the marriage ceremony. And in 1896 they moved to Hays County, and Brother Woods, at the age of 21 “professed a hope in Christ” and joined Cypress Creek Church at Huaca, Hays County, Texas, and was baptized by his father, Elder J. E. Woods on October 18, 1896. His wife



Sarah stated on that occasion “I thought it was the loveliest sight I ever saw. I could hardly keep out of the water, I wanted to join with him so much but could not find courage to go.” Sarah Jane joined Elm Grove Primitive Baptist Church in Georgetown the third Sunday of July 1897. She was baptized by her precious father Elder Henry Killgore in the San Gabriel River at the northwest edge of town.

I suppose shortly thereafter, Dudley Killgore, Sarah Jane's brother wrote from northern Louisiana. He told the family there was work in Louisiana, so the family packed and on Nov. 15 1904 moved to Bernice, La. They lived there six years then moved near Minden, Louisiana where they bought a home where they lived happy, had many trials, sorrows, losses, blessings and pleasures.

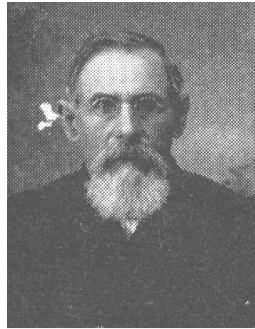
The Mt. Paron Church S. E. of Homer, Clairborne Parish, Louisiana, called for the ordination of Brother M. H. Woods to the full work of the ministry. On July 23, 1911, Brother Woods came before the presbytery to be ordained. Elders R. M. Gatherright, J.D. Spinks, H. H. Hearn and Deacons J. D. Tucker and J. H. McClung were seated in the presbytery. He pastored churches in Louisiana (Mt. Paron and Lebanon Primitive Baptist Churches) and Texas for many years.

Sometime later Elder Woods moved back to Texas and after some moving about they settled near Santa Ana, Coleman Co. Texas. Elder Woods and Elder C. H. Richards of Santa Ana, Texas co-pastored the Santa Ana Church for a time. Elder Woods retained his membership in the Santa Ana Church, Santa Ana, Texas till his death.

After 42 years as a minister, ill health forced Elder Woods to give up the pastoral care of churches. He would occasionally fill an appointment and would sometimes preach in the home of his children.

He passed away at the Freer Hospital & Clinic at 4:40 o'clock, Monday afternoon, July 25, 1949. He suffered a paralytic stroke on Wednesday of the previous week.

ELDER SAMUEL R. WOODS



preacher.

Elder Samuel R. Woods was born in Washington County Texas, November 16, 1846, the son of Joseph and Ward Woods. He was married to Lucinda Brooks, and to this union seven children were born: Alice, Joseph L., Robert, Lucy George, Russell and Lydia. He was ordained to preach the gospel on November 1871 at Union Church on Wadlington Prairie in Bastrop County, Texas, by Elders Jesse Davis, J. E. Woods, and W. C. Purcell, and became a dedicated, influential

A true pioneer minister, he was in the constitution of a number of churches in East and Central Texas. Mill Creek Church, Austin County, recorded this minute:

[Saturday before the 4th Sunday in November 1873. The church met in conference and the business of constituting a colored church was attended to and a deacon ordained for the same. The said colored members of Mill Creek by the help of Bro. S. Woods was constituted an independent church Saturday before the fourth Sunday in November 1873. No other business conference adjourned. Wm. Risinger C. C. ---- J. O. Barnett, Mod.]

In 1882 he was in the constitution of Valley Springs Church, Llano County, and served as pastor until 1885. He helped to organize a church at Field Creek, Texas, an arm of Valley Springs Church in 1909, and served as pastor there until his death.

He also assisted in the ordination of many preachers and deacons. He was sent as messenger to the association a number of times, on occasion preaching the introductory sermon. Elected Moderator of Friendship Association in 1891, he served until 1895.

Elder Woods died August 18, 1915.

ELDER JOHN MCCORMICK WOODWARD

Elder John McCormick Woodward was born July 22 in Dooly County, Georgia, the eldest son of John H. Woodward and Nancy Barnelia McCormick Woodward. In early life, he united with the church at Piney Ridge, Dooly County, Georgia. On Oct. 27, 1887, he was married to Miss Emmie Poihill.

Brother Woodward was a man of firm conviction, possessing a keen insight to the scriptures and an unusual gift of imparting it to others. Seeing the need of a church at this place and desiring to further the Gospel to God's humble poor, in 1910 his vision was realized in the constitution of Adriel Church. He contributed more of his earthly goods, time and talent than perhaps any other member.

In 1914 he was ordained a minister of the Gospel and served as pastor of Adriel Church from Feb. 8, 1914, until a few months preceding his death.

He suffered five long years with a dreadful malady, yet with patience and courage. On Aug. 19, 1904, the battle being over, his spirit slipped out on the golden tide of evening to meet his Pilot face to face to tell the story saved by grace.

ELDER HARVEY WRIGHT

FROM "THE GOSPEL MESSENGER" JULY 1886: I was born in Centerville, Ohio, September 9, 1820. When about five months old my parents moved to Rush County, Indiana, where I grew up to manhood, in a new country with very limited opportunities for an education and with very little influence to incline me to the Baptists, having neither parent, grandparent, brother or sister, belonging to that church. But my parents taught me to read the Scriptures as the word of God, and as my guide religiously, for which is the duty of all parents to do so. And according to the Scriptures I believed I was a sinner and Jesus was a Saviour; but until twenty years old I thought my sins were only sinful acts, which I could atone for by repentance and doing better. But I was then made to see myself a sinner by nature as well as by practice, and my heart was then turned to the Lord to behold his justice in my eternal condemnation by his holy law, which seemed to have taken hold of me. While in sadness of heart I mourned for months because I feared that I did not feel that



sorrow and grief which I ought to in realizing the justice of my condemnation. I concluded that there was no one on earth in such a condition as I was. While thus distressed I was made to remember that it was written, "Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed," which gave me some comfort and rest; for I was compelled to trust in Jesus, because I could see no other refuge. Thus I continued until one day on my way to meeting at Little Salt Creek Church, I was meditating on my condition, when I was made to see clearly that the righteous obedience of Jesus was the end of the law's demand against every one that believeth in him. Then a calm, sweet peace filled me full of comfort, while all nature seemed filled with praise. And I wondered that I had not before seen the way of justification, which now seemed so plain. I went onto the meeting, where I felt an interest I had never before felt in the worship, a love for those engaged in

it, and a desire to join with them in praising the riches of God's grace. After a few months, in company with my wife, I went to the Fayette Church, Fayette County, Indiana, where we were received and baptized by Elder Daniel Conner on the first Sunday of July, 1850, which was to me a happy day.

I was soon strongly impressed that I must try to preach, which I thought impossible for me to do, being too unworthy to even be a member of the church and so ignorant that I feared to try lest I should preach something not taught in the scriptures. But soon the brethren began to ask me to exercise publicly, which I was led to do in much weakness, confusion and fear. In my next effort I enjoyed much liberty and comfort in speaking, and these words came to me: "You have now received your request." From that day I have been afraid to refuse to try to speak of the glory of his kingdom and talk of his power.

In May 1854, upon call of the church, a council convened and I, with three others, H. D. Conner, B. F. Carter and G. C. Millsbaugh, was ordained by the following named presbytery of Elders Wilson Thompson, Daniel Conner, Morgan McQuary, John A. Thompson, J. E. Armstrong and Jefferson Cox.

In a few months after my ordination I was called to the pastorate of Fairfield Church, in Franklin County, Ind., and East Fork Flatrock Church, in Rush County, Ind., and to the care of other churches, so that my engagements have been almost constantly four Saturdays and Sundays each month, besides attending many funerals and Associations, and other appointments in various places, having visited among the Baptists in eight other States outside of my own. I am now much worn with years of toil and affliction, having raised a family of eleven children, the youngest of which is nearly fourteen years old, so that I now feel like my work is nearly done.

NOTE: Elder Wright passed from this life in 1906. He is the uncle of Wilbur and Orville Wright, the pioneer aviators.

ELDER WALTER LOE WRIGHT

WRITTEN BY ELDER BERWYN F. HAND IN THE "BAPTIST TRUMPET:" Life's sunset came on one of God's grand and precious old

servants, January 4, 1971, as Elder Walter Wright was called away to his long sought home from all his trials, heartaches and disappointments.

He was born January 13, 1888 at Alma, Arkansas. He lived 82 years and 11 months. He married Miss Lydia D. Overman on February 7, 1909 at Norton, Texas. Elder Wright lived in Las Cruces since 1941 and prior to that, 14 years in Loop, Texas, where he served as Assistant Postmaster. He lived in Lovington the last six months.

ELDER HASKEL FLOYD WREN



Elder Wren, known to most as "Hack," was born on July 5, 1901 to Allison and Kathryn Turner Wren. He passed from this life on March 25, 1982. He married Ruby Harmon October 1923. They had three children, Patricia, Floyd and Carolyn. He joined the church in 1943 and was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry in October of 1950.

He pastored several churches and was pastoring his home church, New Liberty at Ashland, Missouri and Union Church, south of Columbia, Missouri at the time of his passing.
