

THE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST CHRONICLE

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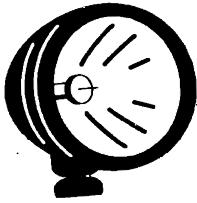
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Spotlight on the Archives



The Falls Creek Cow Horn

FALLS CREEK'S DIVINE PURPOSE

Can you imagine Falls Creek in the early 1900's? Falls Creek began in 1917 and has for over 90 years served as a tool to encourage believers and reach the lost.

Can you imagine the early assembly in 1917 when it was time to sound the cow horn?

J. B. Rounds would go up the hill and would blow the horn to signal the new day. This same horn was used to announce the time for classes and services.

Was it a ram's horn as some thought? Come see for yourself. It's here in our archives.

The horn, however, will soon return to its place of origin. Beginning this year we will have a permanent display case in the new tabernacle. The unique display will feature an excellent example of the history of Falls Creek. It will be another means of visibility for our Gaskin Historical Library housed at the BGCO in Oklahoma City.

I used to hear people say Falls Creek was formed primarily to encourage Christians and it wasn't designed for evangelistic purposes. Oh really? Anytime young people get together in this church related experience, someone will find Christ as Lord.

Read this interesting account that occurred in 1917 as told by Susanna Hunter:

Everybody was going on a long hike. I worked in the cafeteria, so I was late getting started. When I did leave in an effort to catch up with the hikers, I passed the tabernacle and it seemed out of the corner of my eye I saw something move. I looked and saw someone under the tabernacle, sitting silently, with head in hands, and weeping. I drew near, put my hand on her shoulder, talked with her, had a prayer, and finally she said, "I never felt so miserable in my life. Last night and before, in our camp we have had 'Soul Searching Sessions'. It seems everything each person has said was meant for me, and I feel so condemned. I was doing fine back at home, but I came here and something is happening to me. God seems so real to everyone but me. How can I get that feeling too?" I said to her, "Be still, and know that I am God." I told her He was listening, for her just to talk to Him. She prayed. She said to God, "Lord, how I need you! Please forgive me." Soon she was free of the shell which had so long encased her. We had a praise time. When the hikers returned she told them about it. That night she made a public response on the first stanza of the invitation. Some years later at a meeting I heard her telling of that experience. She said that night her heart was completely broken. She compared her experience to a chicken pipping the shell, trying to break out. Her experience was one of breaking out of a shell into the beauty of God's love.

Just imagine the chick as it senses the first light of the world around it. Imagine the beauty of the earth in its brilliant fullness as the chick first makes it out. Imagine the thousands of hearts that have seen that first light at Falls Creek and a new life begins.

In these 90 years we've gone from tents to air conditioned tabernacles, and the Lord is still in the hills and the hearts of those who attend.

Eli H. Sheldon, Editor

1 Sights and Sounds of Falls Creek, J. M. Gaskin, 1980, Baptist Messenger Press, p. 22

2 *ibid*, pp. 21-22

Historical Society Annual Meeting

of the BGCO

September 27, 2007—9 AM

Falls Creek

Attendance: 23

Presiding Society president Curtis Dixon began the meeting with prayer.

Marlin Hawkins directed the dedication litany for the Jennie V. Massey Chapel.

J.M. Gaskin spoke on his personal memories of Jennie V. Massey.

Eli Sheldon read the letter to the Society written by the son, John Massey, who was unable to attend due to business. This letter contained remarks on the life his mother had led, the qualities of the virtuous woman she possessed and how her quiet wisdom guided him to be appreciative of God's love and providential care. Words of wisdom from his mother on the occasion of his receiving an honor: "John, remember those terrapins on the fence posts in the garden at Boswell? They did not get there by themselves. They, as do all of us, had help. Be humble in your recognition."

Michael Dershem, outgoing chairman of the Commission, gave the Historical Commission report:

1. A goal of \$30,000 is set for the Gaskin Library and Archives Forever Fund. (The balance as of December 31, 2007 is \$25,549.)
2. There will be a revision to the church history guide.
3. Plans have been made to place an historical marker commemorating Uncle Bill Lucas' cabin, work and museum.
4. There will be publicity for the Writers' Clinic scheduled for March 29, 2008.
5. Del Allen was presented as the new chairman of the Commission.

Eli Sheldon, chairman of the Church History Award Committee, announced that Gage, First was the 2006 winner. No one from the church was able to attend so the certificates and honorarium will be mailed.

Sheldon also gave additional information on the Writers' Clinic for March 2008.

Information will be mailed to all DOMs and all Society members in February 2008, as well as notices placed in the *Baptist Messenger* in early March.

2007 Hall of Fame Inductees

<u>Writer/Presenter</u>	<u>Inductee</u>
Wayne Lane	Rosalee Appleby
Eli Sheldon	Guy Bellamy
Michael Dershem	Buffalo Meat
Del Allen	Josie Porterfield (Mrs. C.A.)
Marlin Hawkins	E.W. Westmoreland

Monographs of each of these inductees will be published in the Spring, 2008 issue of the *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle*. Curtis Dixon received a motion from the Hall of Fame committee that these nominees be inducted. The motion was seconded by Lem Ball, Jr., and the motion passed.

Lem Ball, Jr., chairman of the Distinguished Service Award committee, deferred to Marlin Hawkins for the announcement of the 2007 award winner. Marlin Hawkins presented the certificate to Freida Sheldon.

Marlin Hawkins next presented a certificate to Helen Gaskin as Mrs. Oklahoma Baptist.

Lem Ball returned to the podium with remarks on Marlin Hawkins' work and resignation as of October 31, 2007. His comments were in the form of a commendation.

Marlin Hawkins presented certificates to the outgoing commissioners Michael Dershem, Lem Ball and Wayne Lane, and to Curtis Dixon as outgoing president of the Society.

Marlin Hawkins gave his farewell speech to all present entitled "Mightily Blessed...Divinely Favored, Thirty-Two Years with the BGCO." (Printed in the Autumn, 2007 issue of the *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle*.)

Curtis Dixon opened the floor for nominations for vice president of the Society. Del Allen nominated Michael Dershem, seconded by Lem Ball, Jr., Wayne Lane moved that nominations cease and Michael be elected by acclamation. Motion passed.

The new Society officers are:

Wayne Lane, President
Michael Dershem, Vice President

The meeting was dismissed in prayer by Wayne Lane.

Respectfully submitted,

Freida Sheldon
Historical Society Secretary

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

LIFE

Laddie Adams
Oklahoma City, OK

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Marlow, OK

Dr. Del Allen
Wilburton, OK

Mrs. Floyd Allen
Broken Arrow, OK

Floyd Allen
Broken Arrow, OK

Jerry L. Allen
Plano, TX

Ramona Peters Allen
Wilburton, OK

Mr. George Atkins
Weatherford, OK

V. C. Aubert
Hobart, OK

Bill Aydelotte
Sallisaw, OK

James Baird
Pampa, TX

John Ball
Bartlesville, OK

Lemuel F. Ball, Jr.
Claremore, OK

W. D. Barnes
Tulsa, OK

Robert C. Bazzell
Birmingham, MI

Patricia Beasley
Claremore, OK

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Oklahoma City, OK

Katherine Biggs
Muskogee, OK

Tommy Billings
Victoria, TX

Flora Blake
Edmond, OK

James Blankenship
Hugo, OK

Kenneth Blazer
Oklahoma City, OK

Darlene Bradshaw
Claremore, OK

Donald Brent
Oklahoma City, OK

Mrs. Hugh R. Bumpas
Oklahoma City, OK

Anna Lou M. Burgess
Tulsa, OK

Rachelle Burleson
Enid, OK

Wade Burleson
Enid, OK

Orby L. Butcher, Jr.
Shawnee, OK

John E. Canada
Shawnee Mission, KS

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Mounds, OK

Wayne Carson
Sapulpa, OK

Marie Chappelle
Henryetta, OK

Henry Chennault
Aiken, SC

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Maxine Chennault
Aiken, SC

Larry Downum
Oologah, OK

Loweta (Mrs. Cecil) Chesser
Altus, OK

Donald R. Dunn
Chickasha, OK

Rose Chronister
Wilburton, OK

Robert Dye
Chickasha, OK

Kevin Clarkson
Moore, OK

Wayne Edge
Edmond, OK

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Heavener, OK

Mrs. Alvin Cockrum
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Fondanell S. Edwards
Bartlesville, OK

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Del City, OK

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Claremore, OK

Carolyn Ellenbrook
Lawton, OK

Dr. Russell R. Cook
Shawnee, OK

Charles Ellenbrook
Lawton, OK

Bill Crawford
Kingfisher, OK

Dale Elliott
Heavener, OK

Jonell Crawford
Kingfisher, OK

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Allen, TX

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Oklahoma City, OK

Ron Fannin
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Oklahoma City, OK

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Checotah, OK

Michael Dershem
Yale, OK

Dr. Jerry Faught
Oklahoma City, OK

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Oklahoma City, OK

Dr. Milton Ferguson
Kansas City, MO

Audie Dorrough
Waurika, OK

Dr. David Flick
Enid, OK

Oletta Dotson
Enid, OK

Weldon Foster
Claremore, OK

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Shawnee, OK

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Oologah, OK

Clark Frailey
Tecumseh, OK

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Lula Hawkins
Weatherford, OK

Lyle Garlow
Oklahoma City, OK

Marlin Hawkins
Oklahoma City, OK

Margaret Garner
Oklahoma City, OK

Patsy Hawkins
Oklahoma City, OK

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Pottsboro, TX

Stacy & Patricia Hawkins
Bethany, OK

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Durant, OK

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Nocona, TX

Helen Gaskin
Durant, OK

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Mildred Gay
Sulphur, OK

Doyal Hedrick
Norman, OK

Frankie Sue Gilliam
Muskogee, OK

Kay Henry
Claremore, OK

C. Henry Gold
Durant, OK

Howard Henson
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Dean Goodfellow
Altus, OK

Harland Higgins
Coweta, Ok

Jo Ann Goodfellow
Altus, Ok

Margaret Hill
Durant, OK

Bill Green
Oklahoma City, OK

Dr. Dan S. Hobbs
Norman, OK

Tim Green
Seminole, OK

Sylvia Honts
Bartlesville, OK

Dr. Kenneth Guthrie
Oklahoma City, OK

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Center, TX

Dr. David C. Hall
Chickasha, OK

Mrs. Charles Hudson
Coalgate, OK

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Seminole, OK

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Drumright, OK

Mary Goin Harmon
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W. T. Knight
Del City, OK

Ted Lam
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Bettielou Lane
Alva, OK

Ruby M. Lane
Muskogee, OK

Wayne Lane
Alva, OK

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Lubbock, TX

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Mustang, OK

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Okmulgee, OK

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Purcell, OK

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Kingfisher, OK

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Stuart, OK

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Edmond, OK

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Wagoner, OK

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Perry, OK

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Edmond, OK

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LeVoe Maxwell
Shawnee, OK

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Cleo McDow
Shawnee, OK

Lynn Earl McDow
Checotah, OK

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Eufaula, OK

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Shawnee, OK

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Nevada, OH

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Oklahoma City, OK

Darryl Moore
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Yukon, OK

Rick A. Moore
Wagoner, OK

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Ft. Gibson, OK

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Enid, OK

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Woodward, OK

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Broken Arrow, OK

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Dill City, OK

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Shawnee, OK

Lester Patterson
Shawnee, OK

Steve Patterson
Henryetta, OK

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Claremore, OK

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Oklahoma City, OK

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Ponca City, OK

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Oklahoma City, OK

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Cordell, OK

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Durant, OK

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Nashville, TN

Kent Ryals
Vinita, OK

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Dallas, TX

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Tonkawa, OK

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Imogene Stephens
Poteau, OK

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Yoakum, TX

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Duncan, OK

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Temple, TX

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Oklahoma City, OK

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Tulsa, OK

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Ada, OK

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Shawnee, OK

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Norman, OK

Harry Tyson
Shawnee, OK

Forrest Upchurch
Hugo, OK

Lois Upchurch
Hugo, OK

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Van Buren, AR

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McAlester, OK

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Lavonne Walker
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Mustang, OK

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Anadarko, OK

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Norman, OK

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College Station, TX

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Oklahoma City, OK

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Denver, CO

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Durant, OK

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ANNUAL

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Noble, OK

Opal Hampton Crall
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Christine Baugh
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Leah Bird
McLoud, OK

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San Antonio, TX

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Wilson Mills, NC

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Ryan, OK

Wade Simmons
Clinton, OK

Iva Jo Mize
Ryan, OK

Alva Smith
Anadarko, OK

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Pryor, OK

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Sulphur, OK

Lauretta B. Reynolds
Marlow, OK

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Duncan, OK

Don Ritchie
Kingfisher, OK

Dr. Dan Wimberly
Bartlesville, OK

Dr. Wade Robertson
Wagoner, OK

ANNUAL-INSTITUTION

First

Baylor Library Serials
Waco, TX

Baptist Church Library
Wewoka, Ok

Crest Baptist Church
Midwest City, OK

Northeastern Oklahoma University Tahlequah,
OK

Criswell College
Dallas, TX

Sans Bois Baptist Association
Kinta, OK

First Baptist Church Library
Clinton, OK

State Historical Society
Madison, WI

First Baptist Church Media Center
Lawton, OK

Virginia Baptist Historical Society
Richmond, VA

First Baptist Church
Shawnee, OK

Wheaton College
Wheaton, IL

Membership

PERPETUAL-INSTITUTION

Arrow Heights Baptist Church
Broken Arrow, OK

Baptist History and Heritage Society
Mercer University
Atlanta, GA

Center Point Baptist Church
Wilburton, OK

Cooperative Program Office,
Baptist General Convention of OK
Oklahoma City, OK

Council Road Baptist Church
Bethany, OK

Crestwood Baptist Church
Oklahoma City, OK

Crown Heights Baptist Church
Oklahoma City, OK

Dale Baptist Church
Dale, OK

Emmanuel Baptist Church
Enid, OK

First Baptist Church Library
Ada, OK

First Baptist Church
Bartlesville, OK

First Baptist Church Library
Chickasha, OK

First Baptist Church Media Library
Claremore, OK

First Baptist Church
Dill City, OK

First Baptist Church
Enid, OK

First Baptist Church
Eufaula, OK

First Baptist Church
Miami, OK

First Baptist Church Library
Muskogee, OK

First Baptist Church Library
Norman, OK

First Baptist Church
Nowata, OK

First Baptist Church
Pond Creek, OK

First Baptist Church
Sulphur, OK

First Baptist Church Library
Tahlequah, OK

First Baptist Church
Tonkawa, OK

First Baptist Church
Tuttle, OK

First Baptist Church
Wagoner, OK

Florida Baptist Historical Society
Graceville, FL

Golden Baptist Church Library
Golden, OK

Immanuel Baptist Church
Duncan, OK

Immanuel Baptist Church
Perkins, OK

Immanuel Baptist Church
Tulsa, OK

Kay Baptist Association
Ponca City, OK

Memorial Heights Baptist Church
Claremore, OK
Oklahoma Baptist University
Shawnee, OK

State of Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma City, OK

President Hakim Mohammed Said
Karachi, Pakistan
Southeastern Seminary
Wake Forest, NC

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Southern Baptist Archives and Library
Nashville, TN

Southwest Baptist University Library
Bolivar, MO

Southern Baptist Archives and Library
Nashville, TN

Roberts Library
Southwestern Seminary
Fort Worth, TX

OBU STUDENTS

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Tulsa, OK

Richard Loucks
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Billy Benson
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Ashley Matz
Shawnee, OK

Chris Canary
Newcastle, OK

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Katie Christensen
Shawnee, OK

Howard McMurry
Ardmore, OK

Pablo Conchos
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Shawnee, OK

Francis Edwards
Shawnee, OK

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Council Hill, OK

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Shawnee, OK

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Shawnee, OK

Patrick Fitzgerald
Shawnee, OK

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Lawton, OK

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Shawnee, OK

Jordyn Parr
Newcastle, OK

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Shawnee, OK

Brian James
Shawnee, OK

Bryan Reece
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Ryan Rhodes
Edmond, OK

Justin King
Shawnee, OK

Whitney Ritchie
Shawnee, OK

Brian Levings
Perry, OK

Rachel Sanders
Shawnee, OK

Jacob Lonsinger
Shawnee, OK

Kris Stephens
Shawnee, OK

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Michael Thomas
Bedford, TX

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Shawnee, OK

Ryan Weber
Shawnee, OK

Landon Womack
Shawnee, OK

Lester Wynn, Jr.
Shawnee, OK

NECROLOGY

January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007

Adams, Robert A. "Butch" – 54, pastor of Sand Springs, Trinity, died February 18. Funeral services were February 22 at Trinity. Born in Ohio, Adams had been pastor of the Sand Springs church since 1991. He previously served as minister of youth at Tulsa, Immanuel and Ranch Acres. Adams was a chaplain for the Tulsa Police Department.

Appleton, Vincent B. - 92, died February 11 in Buffalo. A native of Oklahoma, he graduated from the University of Oklahoma law school, Southern Seminary and the University of Kentucky. During World War II and the Korean Conflict, he served as a chaplain in the South Pacific and Europe. He served as pastor of Ada, Trinity and Kingfisher, Firsts as well as churches in Indiana, Wyoming, Iowa and Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Bitner, James Henry, former IMB missionary, died July 24. Memorial services were July 27 at Yukon, First. Bitner, ordained to the ministry by Oklahoma City, Kelham in 1942, was a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary. He served as an assistant chaplain in the Army during World War II, and as pastor of Midwest City, Soldier Creek before going as a missionary to Chile, where he and his wife, Fern, served for 34 years. After retirement in 1987, he continued to teach and train Spanish-speaking leaders of Baptist churches both in the United States and overseas.

Bond, Jo, - 84, died in Shawnee on July 31. For 36 years Bond had been a member of the faculty and worked in the administrative offices at Oklahoma Baptist University.

Briggs, Rowland - 69, state pastor for more than 43 years, died May 1. Briggs surrender to full-time ministry at Falls Creek as a teenager. A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary, he pastored seven Oklahoma churches before going to Blackwell, Immanuel, where he retired after 19 years of service.

Brooks, Gene - 71, died July 21. Funeral services were July 28 at Oklahoma City, First. Brooks graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University and held a doctor of music degree from the University of Oklahoma. He served as minister of music at Walters, First; Tecumseh, First; and Lawton, Northside, Southside, Calvary and Cameron. He chaired the music departments at Cameron University in Lawton, Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, and the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. He received the Profile in Excellence and Distinguished Alumni Award in Music from Oklahoma Baptist University, and the University of Oklahoma School of Music Distinguished

Alumni Award. His choirs performed at Carnegie Hall in New York, the Choral Symposium in Vienna, Austria, and presented 25 concerts on the USO tour of the Caribbean. The last 30 years he served as National Executive Director of the American Choral Directors Association.

Browning, James V., superintendent of the Oklahoma City Baptist Children's Home for 31 years, died January 31. Funeral services were February 9 at New Covenant Christian Church in Oklahoma City. Browning, a native of Texas, came to the Oklahoma City campus in 1954 from Buckner's Orphans Home in Dallas. Browning is the author of *Great Things He Has Done*, a book containing 75 stories of children who grew up at the Baptist Children's Home. In 1984 the education/recreation building on the Oklahoma City campus was named for Browning. As a father figure to more than 4,000 children during his lifetime, Browning often said, "It matters not where the children come from. It is where they are going that counts. All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today--our children. We can't value them enough."

Burnette, Joe E. - 88, died August 10 in Franklin, Tennessee. Memorial services were August 13 at Charlotte, North Carolina, First. He was a 1937 graduate of Hobart High School and graduated from Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tennessee and Southwestern Seminary. Burnette served as minister of education at Tulsa, Immanuel and also served as president of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association.

Capps, Troy, died April 22 in Bethany. Funeral services were at Bethany, Tulakes. Capps served as pastor of Kingston, First; Ninnekah, First; Oklahoma City, Shields Boulevard and Newcastle, Woodland Acres. He retired from Texoma Southern in Kingston in 1999 due to ill health.

Carey, Evelyn - 94, died November 27. Funeral services were at Oklahoma City, Portland Avenue December 1. Carey served for 40 years as director of day care at Oklahoma City, Crestwood.

Cobbs, John Kelly - 50, associate pastor of administration, outreach and young adults at Edmond, First, died January 25 following a workout. Funeral services were January 31 at Edmond, First. A native of New Mexico, Cobbs graduated from Del City High School and after being chosen for the Oklahoma All-State Football Team, he went on to play football for the University of Oklahoma. He served Del City, First Southern as interim youth minister, and served eight years as minister of education at First Church, Lakeland, Florida before returning to Oklahoma.

Crabtree, T.T. - 83, died September 18 in Springfield, Missouri. He was a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tennessee, earned a master's in divinity and a doctorate in theology from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He served as pastor of eight churches during his ministry, including Oklahoma City, Putnam City (1963-71), Tulsa, Immanuel (1955-63) and Springfield, Missouri, First, where he was named pastor emeritus upon his retirement. He endowed lectureships at both Union University and Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri in his wife, Bennie's, honor. Crabtree

served as interim dean of the Redford School of Theology at Southwest Baptist University and also served on the boards of trustees of Oklahoma Baptist University, Southwest Baptist University and Southern Seminary, and as president of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Davis, Sue Ella - 77, mother of Randy Davis, BGCO singles consultant and minister to singles at Oklahoma City, Quail Springs, died September 28.

Dawson, Alice, wife of Dr. Bob Dawson (professor at Oklahoma Baptist University) died July 6.

Doyle, Gerald "Red" - 80, former missionary and pastor of Gould, First, died May 25. Funeral services were May 29 in Chillicothe, Texas. Doyle pastored Gould from 1956-59, and served as a missionary in Ecuador for 33 years.

Driscoll, Arthur, Jr. - 84, Baptist Student Union director at the University of Oklahoma from 1950-60, died May 26 in Nashville, Tennessee. Driscoll was director at the time the present Baptist Student Center in Norman was built. From 1965-85 he was a consultant in the National Student Ministries Department of the Southern Baptist Convention. A native of Stillwater, he was a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Southwestern Seminary and the University of Virginia.

Farrand, James Clinton - 59, minister of music and worship at Shawnee, First, for 18 years, died August 28 at his home due to complications from cancer. Memorial services were at Shawnee, First August 31. He was a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary, and served as minister of music at Sulphur, First and McAlester, First before moving to Shawnee. Farrand was a member of the Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma, The Centurymen, served as director of the Central Oklahoma Choral Society, and taught as an adjunct professor at OBU.

Fisher, Dick B. - 85, died November 25. Funeral services were November 28 at Bill Eisenhower Southeast Chapel in Del City. Fisher served as pastor of Oklahoma City, Plainview, Agnew Avenue, and Liberty; Midwest City, Soldier Creek; and Wellston, First. He was a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southern Seminary.

Fite, John - 83, died December 30, 2007. Memorial services were at Shawnee, Immanuel. Fite, a native Oklahoman, was a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, and pastored six churches in Oklahoma. He and his wife Lillian served for 20 years with Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children, retiring in 1990.

Fletcher, Henry H. - 71, died May 7. Funeral services were May 10 at Elk City, Eastside. A native of Gracemont, he surrendered to the ministry at Falls Creek, graduated from Southwestern Seminary and served as pastor of Elk City, Eastside for 22 years.

Foreman, Eugene "Rusty" - 83, died February 17. Funeral services were Feb 10 at Altus, First. A native of Duke, he graduated from Oklahoma Baptist

University and Central Seminary in Kansas City. After graduation from seminary, Foreman served two churches, in Kansas City and Falls Church, Virginia, over a 40 year period. He was coordinator of the Pastoral Counseling and Consultation Centers of Greater Washington, D.C. Returning to Oklahoma after retirement, he served as interim in six churches.

Forrest, Inez, died May 9. Active in state and associational Baptist work as well as in WMU work, she was a member at Muskogee, First where she taught first and second grade for 50 years.

Hacker, Aaron - 88, died April 5. Funeral services were April 9 at Oklahoma City, Lone Star. Hacker graduated from Retrop High School and attended Oklahoma Baptist University. He pastored seven Oklahoma churches include Oklahoma City, Lone Star and Carter, First.

Karch, Leonard William, died July 23 in Stigler. Funeral services were July 26 at Whitefield Church. Karch served as pastor of Lutie, Whitefield, Lequire, Quinton and Mountain Home Churches in LeFlore Association.

Keiningham, Clifford W - 77, longtime state pastor, died January 21. Funeral services were January 25 at Tulsa, Berryhill. A native Oklahoman, he graduated from East Texas Baptist College and served in the US Navy from 1948-57. He pastored six churches in Oklahoma and was the author of *Year 'Round Sermon Outlines; Outlines for Evangelistic Preaching; Sermon Outlines for Funerals; Outlines on Christian Doctrine and Outlines of the New Testament*.

Kennedy, O.W. "Heavy" - 90, father of Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children President Tony Kennedy, died September 30. Funeral services were October 2 at Elmore City, First. A farmer and rancher, Kennedy was a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Elmore City, First, and worked with youth on church mission trips.

Lindquist, Hugo, - 83, died March 21. Funeral services were March 24 at Oklahoma City, Brookwood. Lindquist was a graduate of Oklahoma City University and Southwestern Seminary. He served as pastor of Oklahoma City, Bethel for 45 years and served on the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma board of directors and as a trustee of Southwestern Seminary.

McGlamery, Harold Pierson - 94, died December 24. McGlamery, a graduate of Southwestern Seminary, served as pastor of Haileyville Church in Pittsburg Association; Mannsville, First; Waurika, First; Atoka, First, Mangum, First and Midwest City, Country Estates. In 1964 he became the secretary of the department of evangelism for the Colorado Convention. After retirement, he and his wife, Alice, continued to minister through marriage encounter weekend retreats.

Milburn, Lowell D. - 85, died May 23. Funeral services were May 25 at Oklahoma City, Highland Hills. A native of Aledo, Texas, he was a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Seminary and served as pastor of Shaw-

nee, First from 1956-69 when he assumed duties in the Child Care Department. When he became director of childcare, ministry facilities consisted of the children's home in Oklahoma City and Boys Ranch Town in Edmond. During his tenure, there was growth from two homes to 10, from serving 10 unwed mothers in 1969 to 2,000 in 1987, from serving 300 children his first year to 700 his last year, and a budget increase from \$450,000 to more than \$3 million a year. The first Crisis Pregnancy Center was open in Tulsa, followed by one in Oklahoma City. In 1986 Milburn was put in charge of both child care and adult ministries when the two programs merged. Milburn considered the most outstanding event of his career to be the sale of the Children's Home at NW 63rd and Pennsylvania in Oklahoma City, and the resulting move to its South Western location. In retirement he served nine more years with Baptist Retirement Villages, and retired as pastor of Guthrie, Lakeview in 2006 after 14 years.

Moore, E. Harmon, the first executive secretary-treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, died in Birmingham, Alabama in February. Funeral services were in Birmingham. Born near Peek, he graduated from Arnett High School and attended Oklahoma Baptist University. Before moving to Indiana, he was a pastor in Illinois and associate executive secretary and director of missions for the Illinois State Association.

Nash, Stanton Harris - 92, assistant to Herschel Hobbs at Oklahoma City, First from 1949-59, died September 26 in Dallas. Nash served for more than 59 years as minister of music and religious education at several churches, church administrator and in various denominational positions with state Baptist and Southern Baptist Convention agencies. He was executive secretary-treasurer of the Hawaii Convention. In retirement he served as planned gifts representative for the Annuity Board and as a development consultant with Southwestern Seminary. He was a graduate of Southwestern Seminary where he taught voice and conducting.

Noel, Dorothy "Dot" - 87, widow of Russell Noel, longtime associate pastor of Tulsa, First, died April 22. Memorial services were April 27 at Tulsa, First.

Overton, Jasper Nay - 67, retired director of missions for Northwest Association, died June 24 in Woodward. Funeral services were June 28 at Woodward, First. A longtime educator, teacher, coach, principal and superintendent, after retiring in 1992 he became Director of Missions at Northwest Association.

Pace, Samuel Wesley - 80, died October 23. He was a retired DOM of Commanche-Cotton Baptist Association. Pace was licensed by Antlers, First Baptist Church in 1944 and preached his first sermon at White Russian Baptist Church in China. He was a president of BGCO from 1980-81. In addition to being a pastor/preacher, he was formerly a schoolteacher. The funeral was held at Antlers, First Baptist Church.

Perkins, Mary A., wife of deceased Oklahoma pastor C.T. Perkins, died January 30. Funeral services were February 2 at Shawnee, Calvary. She

and Perkins, who served as pastor of Hazel Dell Church in Pottawatomie-Lincoln Association; and First Churches of Headrick, Blair, Harrah and Crescent, and was director of missions in Central Association from 1950-67, were married 64 years before his death in 1991.

Rabon, Otway Thomas - 102, longtime Kinta area minister died July 16. Funeral services were July 18 at Enterprise Church in Sans Bois Association. A native of Kinta, Indian Territory, he graduated from Kinta High School and continued his education at Oklahoma Baptist University. He farmed and ranched for several years before being called into the ministry in 1937. In a career spanning almost 70 years, he served as pastor of four churches in Sans Bois Association and one in Washington-Osage Association. He was an original Choctaw Enrollee.

Raley, Coleman L. - 90, the first pastor of Midwest City, Country Estates, died June 17. Memorial services were June 20 at Shawnee, First. Raley held a doctor's degree from the University of Oklahoma and was professor emeritus of psychology at Oklahoma Baptist University.

Ramsey, Maxine - 98, died March 7 in Edmond. Funeral services were at Oklahoma City, Britton March 12. Ramsey was the voice of the Baptist Building for 11 years from 1959-70. Before the phone system was updated, she answered the phone and made all long-distance calls for building personnel.

Reed, Lester I. - 78, died October 2. Funeral services were October 5 at Owasso, First. Reed, known as "Les the Mess," served as an evangelistic comedian, and was staff evangelist at Owasso, First.

Richardson, Vinita, mother of Tim Richardson, pastor of Waterloo Road, died January 18. Funeral services were January 22 at Snyder, First.

Schmidt, Margaret - 87, widow of Kermit J. Schmidt, former associate pastor of Tulsa, First, died April 24. Funeral services were April 27 at Tulsa, First.

Segler, Gwendolyn Frances Mahan - 90, widow of J.C. Segler, died February 19. Funeral services were at Oklahoma City, Crown Heights February 21. She married Segler in 1942 and served with him as he pastored First Churches of Hennepin, Stratford, Henryetta, Hugo and Oklahoma City, Crown Heights.

Stephens, Donald V. - 61, died April 29. Funeral services were May 2 at Moore, Regency Park. He served as youth minister at Oklahoma City, Western Hills, as education/administration at Oklahoma City, Wilmont Place, as associate pastor for education and youth at Oklahoma City, South Del and as minister of education at Oklahoma City, Rancho Village. He is survived by his wife, Mary, ministry assistant in the partnership and volunteer missions office of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma

Stout, Loyd - 77, died April 30. Funeral services were at Mead Church May 4. Stout retired from 20 years of service in the United States Air Force,

earned a doctor's degree at Southwestern Seminary and pastored six churches in Bryan Association, and Burns Flat, First. At the time of his death he was a member of Mead, First.

Sweet, James Merlyn, died August 20 in Midwest City. Funeral services were August 23. Sweet, a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, served in the Navy and was a survivor of Exercise Tiger in the English Channel. He served the Strategic Air Command in Columbus, Mississippi, Little Rock, Arkansas and Southeast Asia. Upon retiring as Chief of the Depot Supply Division at Tinker Air Force Base, he and his wife, Rachel, were appointed missionary associates by the IMB, serving in Israel and South America.

Tanner, William Graydon, Sr. - 77, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma from 1986-96, died June 10 at Park Place Manor Nursing Home in Belton, Texas. Tanner became the seventh leader of the BGCO, after having served for 10 years as executive director-treasurer, later as president, of the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board, now called the North American Mission Board. Tanner, born in Tulsa, was the first native Oklahoman to served as the leader of the BGCO. He was the 11th president of Oklahoma Baptist University (1971-1976) and was president of Mary Hardin-Baylor College in Belton, Texas from 1968-1971. Tanner distinguished himself as a preacher in the Youth Revival Movement.

Wikoff, Betty Gene, widow of the late O. Dale Wikoff, died March 10. Funeral services were March 14 at Altus, First. Dale Wikoff assisted in the founding of Tulsa, Plainview and served as its pastor from 1947-56. After pastoring Stonebluff Church in Muskogee Association from 1956-63, they moved to Houston where Betty Wikoff managed the Baptist Book Store. She is the author of a book of poetry, *Life Is Not a Parking Lot: Keep Moving*.

Wilkson, Warren Lewis - 84, died July 24. Funeral services were July 27 at Sunny Lane Funeral Home Chapel in Del City. A native of Rush Springs, Wilkson was part-time youth director at Oklahoma City, Liberty and served as pastor of Oklahoma City, Forest Park, Douglas Boulevard, Valley Brook and Airline.

Williams, Kenneth R. - 80, died June 20. Services were held June 30 in Ada. A 1956 Oklahoma Baptist University graduate, he served as pastor for eight churches in Oklahoma and as senior adult minister at Broken Arrow, First.

THE
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OKLAHOMA
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ROSALEE MILLS APPLEBY

Inducted 2007



Rosalee Mills Appleby, one of the youths attending the very first Falls Creek Assembly in 1917, stepped forward then as a missions volunteer, becoming the first of the hundreds who have surrendered for special service during the long history of the Falls Creek program.

Ms. Appleby made good on her commitment, serving as a missionary in Brazil for almost 36 years, from 1924 to 1960.

She was born February 26, 1895, on a farm near Duck Hill, Mississippi. She was the fifth of 12 children of Jonathon and Lilliam Mills. She grew up on the family farm near Oxford, Mississippi. However, most of her education and early teaching experiences were centered in Oklahoma. She moved to Shawnee as a girl in 1910 to live with an older sister. She was graduated from high school there in 1913, then earned a lifetime teaching certificate in 1914 at Central State Normal School, now the University of Central Oklahoma, in Edmond.

She served as principal at Burns Community School near Marlow before returning to Shawnee to teach in the public

schools and attend Oklahoma Baptist University. She completed a bachelors degree at OBU in 1920.

She moved to Tulsa that year to become the first “lady missionary” for the Delaware Baptist Association. In 1922 she took a leave of absence to attend the Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. The First Baptist Church in Tulsa, where she had become a member in 1920, provided financial support for her to attend the seminary and added her name to the church staff. She returned to Tulsa in 1923 and resumed work with the Delaware Association.

The Tulsa church for several years underwrote her salary after she began work on the mission field. Without that financial help, she said later, she could not have gone to Brazil.

She was married in 1924 in Tulsa to David Percy Appleby, whom she had met at seminary. That same year she and her husband were appointed as missionaries to Brazil by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. They arrived in Brazil on October 9, 1924, and went first to Rio de Janeiro for language studies, then to Belo Horizonte, some 200 miles inland.

Their dreams of a lifetime of service as a missionary couple were tragically shattered when Appleby became ill on the first anniversary of their arrival in Brazil. He underwent abdominal surgery, but complications developed and he died on October 15, 1925. Only three hours before his funeral the next day, their son was born. He was given the same name as his father, David P. Appleby.

Although grievously devastated by the loss of her husband, Ms. Appleby determined to remain in Brazil, where she would rear her son and continue the mission work she had gone there to do. She was quoted later as saying, “With the renewed assurance that God had called me to be a missionary to the Brazilian people, I never had another thought of coming back to the States to live.”

David P. Appleby, the son, left Brazil at the age of 17 and was educated at the university level in the United States. He

served in the U.S. Marine Corps in both World War II and the Korean conflict. A linguist, he was commissioned in 1945 as a Japanese language officer in the Marine Corps. He became a concert pianist, author and university music professor and administrator, retiring from the faculty at Eastern Illinois University in 1991. With a primary interest in Brazilian music, he amassed a vast collection of the works of Brazilian composers and related materials, which was deposited with the University of Texas libraries as the David P. Appleby Collection of Brazilian Music.

In the year that followed her husband's death, Ms. Appleby taught classes in the *Colegia Baptista* in Belo Horizonte. In addition, she set up a mission in her home, providing free medical care and milk for babies of destitute families. She later helped missions in other homes, some of which grew into churches.

During the next 11 years she directed the Department of History and Statistics for the Religious Education and Publication Board of the Brazilian Baptist Convention in Rio de Janeiro. In 1938 she returned to Belo Horizonte, where her work included a writing ministry and church starting until her retirement in 1960.

Upon her leaving Belo Horizonte to return to the States, more than a thousand Brazilians, mostly of the working class, assembled at the airport. An astounded passerby asked, "Are these people here to welcome some arriving government official?" The reply he received: "No, they are here to say goodbye to an American lady."

Some time after she left, a special appreciation service was held in a Belo Horizonte church. The pastor asked that everyone named for Ms. Appleby come to the podium. More than 20 women named "Rosalee" responded, each telling of her family's love for Ms. Appleby and the circumstances that led to the adopting of her name.

Ms. Appleby is credited with writing 24 books in both Portuguese and English, mostly devotionals and religious poetry. Among her best-known English titles are "The Life Beautiful," published in 1926; "Flaming Fagots (1943), and "White Wings

of Splendor” (1962). She also created many informational and inspirational leaflets.

On the 50th anniversary of Falls Creek in 1967, Ms. Appleby was a special guest at services there, including the dedication of Falls Creek Memorial Park on the assembly grounds. She also was an honored guest when the First Baptist Church of Tulsa celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1972.

A continuing honor at OBU is the Rosalee Mills Appleby “Life Beautiful” Award, given annually since 1936 to an outstanding woman being graduated at the university. It was the first such award to be established there. It is given to a woman who “most nearly exemplifies the qualities which characterize the ideal OBU woman, including personal character, scholarship, leadership, concern for others, and Christian commitment.”

Ms. Appleby’s work in Brazil was recognized years after she had left that country when a tower of prayer was erected at a Baptist camp in the mountains near Rio de Janeiro and dedicated to her memory. The cornerstone for the tower was laid at Camp Mount Moriah in November 1995.

A Brazilian familiar with her work noted that prayer was fundamental in Ms. Appleby’s life, so “a tower of prayer should fit the whole of her life,” and added, “As a new generation arises, a memorial would open a way to tell about her works of love.”

After she retired, Ms. Appleby lived in Canton, Miss., and continued writing and doing editing work until her health failed. She suffered a massive stroke in March 1991 and remained in a coma until her death on May 20. She was 96 years of age. Funeral services were at the First Baptist Church of Canton, where she was a member, on May 21, 1991.

Ms. Appleby’s work as a missionary undoubtedly produced life changes in countless Brazilians, and the writings she created years ago continue today to inspire and encourage. While

as a missionary she is identified with Brazil, Ms. Appleby’s sig-

nificant connection with Falls Creek, her educational ties to Oklahoma and Oklahoma Baptist University, her denominational work in the Tulsa area, and the overall record of her life and work make her a well-deserving member of the Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame.

Submitted by Wayne Lane

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GUY BELLAMY

Inducted 2007



Guy Bellamy was born in 1897 in Decatur, Texas, the seventh child of William and Helen Bellamy. He died Jan. 6, 1985 due to a heart attack.

Dr. Bellamy began teaching public school in Texas at age 16. He graduated from Decatur Baptist College (now Dallas Baptist University) and received five honorary doctorates from 4 colleges. His doctorates include two doctor of divinities, and doctorates in humanities, human relations, and law.

Dr. Bellamy married his sweetheart, Alice Walser in Texas, and they were blessed with four wonderful children.

He served in World War I as a member of the 7th Division, 7th Company, 7th Squad, 7th Section, and 7th man in rank. Dozens of 7's were noted in his life, and in 1935 his 7's were featured in *Ripley's Believe It or Not*.

In 1935, after serving as superintendent of public schools in Lockett, Texas, and as pastor at First Baptist, Fargo, Texas, he was called as pastor to Putnam City Baptist Church, in Oklahoma City.

In 1943 he became superintendent of city missions in Oklahoma City which led to the starting of 35 new missions and churches.

In 1949 he joined the Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board) as director of work with National Baptists. He employed the first association educational director in the SBC and started the first simultaneous revivals in which Native Americans, African-Americans, Hispanics, and Anglos worked and worshipped together.

He aided more than 2000 National Baptists with full-time college scholarships, created Baptist Student Unions (now Collegiate Ministries) on 55 Afro-American campuses, and developed the concept of National Baptist State Directors. He established 4 Chair of Bible programs, planned National Baptist state assembly grounds, and formed an advisory council of Southern Baptists to work with African-Americans.

Former *Baptist Messenger* editor Richard T. McCartney described Dr. Bellamy as a "Mighty Oak" among Southern Baptists.

Many knew him as a faithful friend, fellow-laborer in Christ, and a great humorist.

Dr. Bellamy was a contributor to four books. In 1957, *The Long Bridge*, a Woman's Missionary Union study book, was published concerning his ministry. In 1963 he published his own book, *Stories Bellamy Tells*. Because of its cross-cultural nature, this second book was distributed in many places to different races.

He also authored several pamphlets including *Negro Missions* and *Ten Commandments On Race Relations* for the Home Mission Board.

His front porch in Bush Hills near North Portland and 42nd St. in Oklahoma City was the place of hundreds of weddings.

The den in his home was the scene of daily pool games. Pastors, friends, and neighbors, black and white, well known or not, were always welcome.

It has been said, Dr. Guy Bellamy did more for race relations and ethnic minorities than any man in the SBC.

Submitted by Eli Sheldon

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BUFFALO MEAT

(Ho'evoo'otse)

Inducted 2007

Buffalo Meat was born in the early 1800s to Proud Mastrodon and his wife, Walking Buffalo.

A member of the Southern Cheyenne tribe, he married Ear Rings. They had at least four children: Raymond Buffalo Meat, Charles Buffalo Meat, Leonard Buffalo Meat and Lelia Jones. Only their son Raymond survived to adulthood.

He was a War Chief among his tribe for 30 years and was identified as a 'ring-leader' of the Red River Wars of 1872-1874. He was captured and held as a prisoner of war at Fort Marion, St. Augustine, Florida from 1875-1878. Upon his release from prison, Buffalo Meat returned to the reservation in 1878.

He was converted and baptized as a member of the Kingfisher Indian Baptist Church in 1896 or 1897. His baptism would have taken place in Kingfisher Creek, 10 miles west of Kingfisher, Oklahoma. He was baptized by Rev. Robert Hamilton who was the first Baptist missionary to the Cheyenne & Arapaho tribes.

F.A. Barde of the St. Louis *Post Dispatch* wrote about Buffalo Meat's conversion on his booklet, "In Camp."

"Just a bit of Buffalo Meat's history. He was converted by Hamilton 14 years ago, and since then has been one of his most helpful church workers. His conversion was the turning point for the local mission, Hamilton having nearly lost hope of winning converts among the Cheyenne. Buffalo Meat's wife told Hamilton that her husband had made up his mind to join the church, and next Sunday he stalked in at the open door and announced his conversion. If he has not thrown them away, he still has a bundle of



Buffalo Meat

scalps, one of them the scalp of a woman. He participated in the capture of the Germaine girls, rescued by Gen. Miles; he was for 30 years war chief of the Cheyenne, and for five years a prisoner of war in Florida. His face looks as if a Sioux had belabored it for a day or two with a dull hatchet."

Another account of his conversion and walk with Christ comes from the book, *The Gospel Among the Red Men*, by Rev. Robert Hamilton, based on his firsthand experience and interaction with Buffalo Meat:

"Among those who came into the Christian faith and were baptized by the missionary was Buffalo Meat, at that time the principal chief of the southern Cheyenne. He had been a war-chief for thirty years and was one of the Florida prisoners. He proved a faithful friend to the missionaries, serving as Senior Deacon in the Kingfisher church until his death. His adopting the Christian faith cost him his chieftainship and caused him to be discredited by the pagan party of the Indians. Soon after his baptism a delegation was being selected to be sent to Washington on some tribal business, and when Buffalo Meat's name was proposed, there was objection. They said that since he had taken the white man's religion, they could not trust him to represent them where the Indian's and the white men's interests were involved. Their counsel prevailed, and he was left off the delegation. His heart was deeply wounded. He came to the missionary and wept as he told him about it. But he stood the test. Many a man with a hundred generations of civilized and Christian ancestors would not have done so well. A little later, a new principal chief was chosen in his place. He loved his Saviour, his church, and the missionaries. His humble testimony and earnest exhortations were always a delight to the missionaries. His home was always their lodging place when they visited that part of the field."

Buffalo Meat died while preparing to travel to Shawnee, Oklahoma, to visit Bro. Hamilton. His obituary was printed in the October 3, 1917 issue of the Kingfisher *Daily Free Press*.

"Funeral held for Buffalo Meat by Rev. Hicks of the Calumet Indian Mission. He was the old Indian of the Cheyenne, more than 100 years old. He was taken prisoner and held for sometime at Ft. Sill, also at

Ft. Marion. He settles on the Cheyenne Reservation where he died."

Many of the descendants of Buffalo Meat are active today in the Indian Baptist Churches of Western Oklahoma. Another part of his legacy are the two Tseese-Ma 'heine-Nemeototse, Cheyenne Christian hymns, which he wrote. These hymns continue to be sung in Cheyenne Christian meetings today.

The first song is a Call to Worship. Buffalo Meat's niece, Mee'oo'e, recalls that her uncle would sing this song as he rode around the camps along Kingfisher Creek, calling his people to worship on Sundays.

Esenehane Jesus, Esenehane Jesus
Neonooaene, Neonooaene
"Nehmoheehne! Nehmoheehne!"
Jesus A neonoomaene, nenaase!

Jesus is our friend, Jesus is our friend,
He invites us, He invites us,
"Come together! Come together!"
Jesus calls us, come!

He also wrote this Cheyenne hymn:

Jesus A me'etano'tova
testanestaheexanomoetse
Vehonema'kaetaevohkeha'e,
tsesto'sehone'o'sehaetse,
Jesus A he'ama.

Remember that Jesus has
Gone to prepare for us a Crown
which He's going to put on us,
Jesus in heaven.

During their incarceration at Fort Marion, St. Augustine, Florida, the prisoners were taught to read and write and to pursue other activities. Buffalo Meat chose to draw. Done with colored pencils on sample ledger book paper, this type of drawing was a westernized version of the pictographic hide paintings that chronicled the exploits of a Plains Warrior earlier in the century.

Buffalo Meat became one of the most famous of the Plains Indian artists using this ledger book style of art. His art is displayed and held in many major western art museums and galleries, including the Amon Carter Museum of Fort Worth, Texas and the Arthur Silberman collection.

Art samples:

"Going In To Trade" by Buffalo Meat

Ink, colored pencil and graphite on paper—1876
Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas





"Self-Portrait" - 1878

This is the first Native American drawing with the horse looking at you.

Submitted by Michael Dershem

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Oral History:

Mee'oo'e (Rena Tobacco), family member of Buffalo Meat.

Essevonemeq (Bro. Max Malone), Catalytic Missionary, North American Mission Board, 1969-2005.

MRS. C. A. PORTERFIELD

Inducted 2007

Josie Jean Chase was born July 3, 1877, at Holyoke, Massachusetts, to Joseph and Alma Frances Coffin Chase. Father, Joseph, was a prominent leader in Holyoke and a deacon in the Second Baptist church of that city.



Josie grew up in Holyoke where she graduated from high school. She was baptized at the First Baptist Church of Holyoke on December 19, 1888. On October 1, 1901, she married Coolidge Albert Porterfield in Denver, Colorado. They lost twins in child birth April 1, 1904 in Denver. A daughter, Priscilla, was born at Oklahoma City July 30, 1908. Another daughter, Jean Frances was born and died April 7, 1914. Their son, Coolidge Albert, Jr. was born July 13, 1917, at Dorchester, Massachusetts.

Mr. Porterfield died in 1941. Mrs. Porterfield died at Holyoke, on December 21, 1961. She was buried in Forestvale Cemetery at Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Mrs. Porterfield is identified as the first Corresponding Secretary of the Woman's Missionary Society of Oklahoma. In 1923 the organization changed its name to "Woman's Missionary Union of Oklahoma".

Sources listed in the bibliography (Ross, page 339 and *The Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle*, (Spring 1982, page 25) name Bertha Mildren Dicken as the first Corresponding Secretary. Kelly King, Missions and Ministry Specialist, says in her article, "100 Years of Women's Work in Oklahoma" (*The Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle*, pages 65):

Although Porterfield served only a short time in 1907, she was the first Corresponding Secretary of the WMU in Oklahoma.

In 1975, her daughter, Priscilla Porterfield shared some notes from her mother's Bible. They were written under the heading, "Our Debt to the Missionaries." The quotes are:

Have you ever thought what the world or America would be like if those Disciples had not obeyed Christ?

There would have been no Pilgrims to land at Plymouth Rock.

What strange gods would we be worshipping if there had been no missionaries to tell the Good News?

Can you imagine a musician who does not believe in music? An American who does not believe in freedom? A scholar who does not believe in books? Or a doctor who does not believe in hospitals?

Can you imagine a TRUE CHRISTIAN who does not believe in missions?

Life's three greatest gifts are, Forgiveness for yesterday, Strength for today, and Hope for tomorrow.

Though her tenure of leadership was brief, Mrs. Porterfield left a good mark on Baptist women's work in Oklahoma (Gaskin, page 329).

Submitted by Del Allen

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E. W. Westmoreland

Inducted 2007

Erroll W. Westmoreland was born October 17, 1897 in Booneville, Arkansas, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Westmoreland. He died December 11, 1990 at the age of 93. His funeral was held in the Louise Pritchard Chapel of First Baptist, Oklahoma City on December 14, 1990.

He married Flossie Lorene Shults on March 14, 1916 in Booneville and they had celebrated their 74th Anniversary prior to his death in 1990. They had two children, a daughter Theresa and a son, Bernard.



Westmoreland attended Ouachita Baptist College (now University), Arkadelphia, Arkansas for three years and received the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1951. A college dropout due to necessity of supporting his family, he said, "The only thing I've ever regretted is that I was not a very serious student. I think I'm the most uneducated educational director that any state ever had."

In the January, 1978, issue of *Outreach* magazine published by the Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources), Westmoreland was one of four men featured in two-page "Profiles of Sunday School Leaders." Growing up in Booneville, Westmoreland was converted at age eleven and baptized in 1911, but as he put it, "fell into the wrong crowd" when he was about fifteen. He quit going to church and Sunday School. At times he felt so far from God that he doubted

After several years of unhappiness with himself, young Westmoreland visited a pastor, W. J. Hinsley, who talked with him about his backslidden condition. Soon after that conversation, he grew weary of being weary.

I got on my horse," he told Gerry Peak, *Outreach* editor, "and went way out in the country—so far that nobody on earth could see me. I got down on the ground and prayed for forgiveness and rededicated my life. It seemed sometime after that I began to think about the ministry."

Westmoreland was ordained to the ministry in 1916. His pastorates included: Dumas Baptist, McGehee, Ark., 1918-20; Crossett, Ark., 1920-24; Heavener, Oklahoma, 1925-36; Exchange Avenue Baptist, Oklahoma City, Ok, 1936-40; and Field Street Baptist, Cleburne, Texas, 1940-42.

In 1942 Westmoreland became the director of the religious education department of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, a position he held until he retired in 1966. However, he served as a church building consultant until 1976.

The work of Baptists in Oklahoma has been a hallmark for many years. No one man is responsible for all of the outstanding achievements of Oklahoma Baptists, but one Oklahoman stands out for his contribution to Sunday School work and religious education: E. W. Westmoreland.

While pastor in Crossett, Ark., Westmoreland grew interested in the work of the Sunday School and worked with a Sunday School superintendent who knew the basic principles of good Sunday School work. Then in 1925, when he accepted a call as pastor of Heavener, OK, he took with him the basics of organization and teaching which would help him begin to build his church through the Sunday School. After eleven years in Heavener, he was called to pastor one of the largest churches in Oklahoma, the Exchange Avenue Baptist in Oklahoma City. It was not unusual for that church to run one thousand persons on Sunday. How could one person direct the Bible teaching learning experiences of such a vast multitude?

He came up with the idea that if you build an organization, a real army of trained workers, equipping people to lead in Bible learning and training key teachers and workers to start new teaching units, conduct effective outreach, and involving others in Bible Study, the church will grow. Westmoreland's accomplishments drew the attention of Oklahoma Baptist leaders, particularly Andrew Potter, executive secretary of the BGCO. Potter then asked Westmoreland to join the state staff as director of the Department of Religious Education a position he held for 24 years. From 1944 to 1956, Oklahoma Baptists averaged a gain in membership of over 1,200 per month.

The process of learning, of sharing the Word of God, of witnessing, of ministering to persons in need is an active process demanding the energies of a multitude. It was to that end—of establishing an army that would work—that E. W. Westmoreland dedicated his life.

He said, "You just can't sit up in the stands and watch the football game go on in religious work. We're not going to win people that way. We've got to get out of the stands, and out on the field. The more people that are in the field doing something the larger the Kingdom is going to grow."

Submitted by Marlin Hawkins

Memorial Gifts

On September 8, 1998 by vote of the Historical Commission, a memorial fund was established whereby a gift of \$25 or more may be made to the Gaskin Historical Archives and Library Forever Fund in memory of a deceased relative or friend.

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KEEP YOUR OLD CHRONICLES

By Eli Sheldon

This spring marks the 50th Anniversary of *The Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle*. Therefore this is the beginning of the 51st year of the *Chronicles*.

I have in my hands Volume 1, No. 1, from Spring 1958. Very few of these are still around. Keep those old *Chronicles*.

It was my original intent to reprint the most interesting article from each *Chronicle* beginning with this first issue. I have decided I will reprint some materials, but probably not from each subsequent issue.

For example, the first issue would need to be reprinted in its entirety to do justice to Dr. Gaskin's fine work. It contains the organizational minutes, the constitution, the charter membership, and minutes of the annual meeting.

It also contains the superior article entitled "Baptist Beginnings in Oklahoma", by J. M. Gaskin.

So why not reprint all these articles?

I have discovered subsequent issues contain even more information than the first. For example, the Autumn 2006 edition has an excellent article entitled "The History of Oklahoma Baptists". It was taken from a video interview of Dr. Gaskin by Marlin Hawkins on February 23, 2006. This retells our Oklahoma Baptist work with added materials beyond the 1958 edition.

Several entities of the BGCO have also provided written histories from their perspectives. For example, the same Autumn 2006 *Chronicle* had the histories of our Disaster Relief,

Women's Work, and a 21 page review by Robert Haskins of *The Two Became One: The Story of Oklahoma Southern Baptists*, by Bob Ross.

I am committed to presenting items of interest and depth which reflect the history of Oklahoma Baptists.

Since 2001 the Hall of Fame monographs (in the *Spring Chronicles*) have replaced other historical articles. This is proper and appropriate. Reading of the early workers is essential to understanding other matters of our state convention.

The histories we write are, in essence, those workers in action. The monographs often present materials that have been excluded in general history articles.

Why not pull out some old *Chronicle* and enjoy a day or two of interesting reading?

Keep those old *Chronicles*. They will be an invaluable reference when you write your article about history.