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25th anniversary of bombing of Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building

>> by Bob Nigh, Historical Secretary, Director of History

At 9:02 a.m., Wed., April 19, 1995, a huge explosion rocked downtown Oklahoma City, and a pillar of black smoke soared into the bright azure sky above the center of the state's capital. Shocked and stunned residents watched in disbelief, wondering what had happened.

Thanks to almost immediate television coverage, it took only a few minutes for most residents to learn that the explosion was the result of a bomb placed in a 24-foot Ryder rental truck parked in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

It was determined later that Timothy McVeigh, a disgruntled former U.S. serviceman, carried out the bombing that killed 168 people and injured more than 680 others. The bombing was the deadliest act of terrorism in the United States prior to the September 11 attacks, and remains the deadliest act of domestic terrorism in the history of the United States.



Alfred P. Murrah

A Gulf War veteran, McVeigh sought revenge against the federal government for the 1993 Waco, Texas siege that ended in the deaths of 86 people, many of whom were children, exactly two years before the bombing, as well as the 1992 Ruby Ridge incident and America's foreign policy. He hoped to inspire a revolution against the federal government, and defended the bombing as a legitimate tactic against what he saw as a tyrannical government.

He was arrested shortly after the bombing and indicted on 160 state offenses and 11 federal offenses, including the use of a weapon of mass destruction. He was found guilty on all counts in 1997 and sentenced to death. McVeigh was executed by lethal injection on June 11, 2001 at the Federal Correctional Complex in Terre Haute, Ind. Terry Nichols and Michael Fortier were also convicted as conspirators in the plot. Nichols was sentenced to eight life terms for the deaths of eight federal agents, and to 161 life terms without the

possibility of parole by the state of Oklahoma for the deaths of the others. Fortier was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment and was later released.

Constructed at a cost of \$14.5 million, the building, named for attorney and federal judge Alfred Paul Murrah, Sr., opened on March 2, 1977. In 1937, Murrah was appointed U.S. District Judge for the Western, Eastern, and Northern Districts of Oklahoma. He served for many years as chair of the Committee on Pretrial Practice and Procedure of the Judicial Conference of the United States, chair of the Council of Judges of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, chair of the Judicial Panel on Multi-district Litigation, and director of the Federal Judicial Center.



According to The Oklahoma Department of Civil Emergency Management After Action Report about the bombing, "an explosive mixture had been prepared with a detonation cord and pre-positioned, parked parallel, in a loading lane on the north side of the building, near the intersection of N.W. 5th St. and Robinson Ave. The force of the explosion was of such magnitude that it destroyed approximately one-third of the Murrah Building. The entire north face of the structure was reduced to rubble and each of the nine floors, plus the roof, received extensive damage."

The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building at 200 NW 5th St. in Oklahoma City prior to its destruction by a bomb on April 19, 1995.

The truck bomb consisted of approximately 5,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, and diesel fuel.

"Contents of the first and second floors were blown against the southern portion of the building, while the third through ninth floors were initially raised by the blast and proceeded to pancake one atop the other at street level," the after action report continued. "When the dust cleared, approximately one-third of the structure was

located in a pile of debris, measuring in some places 35 feet in height and running the length of the building. At the time of the blast, the Murrah Building housed some 600 federal and contract workers, as well as an estimated 250 visitors.”



Joe Williams

Federal agencies housed in the Murrah Building included the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Secret Service; the Department of Housing and Urban Development; the Social Security Administration; the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps recruitment offices; the Veterans Administration; the General Accounting Office; the Department of Health and Human Services; the Department of Defense; the U.S. Customs Service; the Department of Agriculture; the Department of Transportation; and, the General Services Administration. An office of the Federal Employees Credit Union and the "America's Kids" Child Care Development Center were

also housed in the building.

The explosion represented the most destructive—and costly in the terms of lives taken—act of domestic terrorism carried out in U.S. history. The blast was felt as far as 30 miles away and damaged 347 buildings in the immediate area. Thirty buildings were heavily damaged and, in the aftermath, almost 20 buildings were torn down. Twenty blocks of downtown Oklahoma City were cordoned off due to the extent of the bomb damage.

Tragically, among the lives lost that spring morning included 19 children under the age of six being cared for in the America's Kids Day Care Center on the second floor. The total number of lives lost would rise to 168 with the ensuing death of a first responder—nurse Rebecca Anderson—who died as the result of a piece of concrete striking her in the back of the head while she was engaged in rescuing survivors.

Two decades earlier, The Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO) had made preparations to respond to disasters. The state had been divided into four areas, each with a team of volunteers under the supervision of an area leader. This enabled more volunteers to become involved in ministry without calling the same team to respond time after time. All four area volunteers and leaders were called upon to help in the Oklahoma City bombing.

According to the 1995 BGCO Annual Report, 55 disaster relief volunteers prepared approximately 6,000 meals for rescue workers, and 21 volunteers provided emergency day care at Shepherd Mall

Shopping Center at N.W. 23rd St. and Villa Ave. for 11 days. A total of 93 children were given supervised care at the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

A feeding unit was set up on the parking lot of Oklahoma City, First in downtown Oklahoma City. That operation was closed down after four days, however, because Oklahoma City officials requested all feeding for police, fire and chaplaincy teams be done by the Oklahoma Restaurant Association (ORA) at the Myriad Convention Center.



Jack and Phyllis Poe stand in front of The Survivor Tree, an American elm that stood in the parking lot of the Journal Record Building, now the Oklahoma City National Memorial, shown in the background. (Baptist Messenger photo by Bob Nigh)

In the immediate hours following the bombing, many well-meaning food vendors, desiring to help, had been bringing various foods and leaving them without proper temperature and sanitary controls. This change in feeding operations and safeguards instituted were made for the health of the rescue teams.

ORA members had just

concluded their annual conference when the explosion occurred. Eventually, the Myriad Convention Center was established as a command center which met the needs of all personnel responding to the incident. Donated clothing, food, equipment and supplies were available on a 24-hour basis. AT&T provided free telephone calls home for the U.S. Search and Recovery (US&R) Task Forces, complemented by a free mail and parcel delivery service provided by United Parcel Service. The Myriad also housed nine of the 11 US&R Task Forces.

The BGCO chaplaincy program officially was organized in 1984 by Bob Haskins, and in 1986, Nicoma Park, First Pastor Joe Williams was brought on board as chaplaincy and community services specialist. Under Williams' direction, chaplaincy grew in many areas.



Those attending the 15th anniversary ceremonies of the bombing in 2010 gathered under beautiful blue skies. *(Photo by Bob Nigh)*

As the dust and smoke from the destroyed Murrah building was settling, chaplains—including Williams, Oklahoma City Police Department chaplain Jack Poe, Oklahoma City Fire Department chaplain Ted Wilson and Cleveland

County Sheriff's Office chaplain Paul Bettis—ministered to teams searching the Murrah Building for survivors.

Bettis, who also was working in prison chaplaincy at the time, later served as BGCO chaplaincy specialist from 2002-2013. As the bombing response continued, he was involved—along with officers with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency—in serving death notifications to family members.

The chaplains also provided debriefing and counseling services for the first responders who worked under grueling, dangerous and horrifying circumstances. Their work continued for the duration of search and rescue operations, and for months after the building was demolished, as they counseled with men and women whose lives were devastated by the events of April 19, 1995.

Wilson, who was actually the OCFD volunteer chaplain at the time, was kept busy 16-18 hours a day leading continuous Critical Incident Stress Management ministry.

"I did a lot of one-on-one debriefing and defusing ministry in the building and elsewhere on site to people who were beginning to get



Ted Wilson

traumatized,” Wilson said. “Whenever I found them, they just cried or we talked, and we did whatever was necessary to do. Also, we had access to one floor at nearby One Bell Central where we did CISM ministry.”

Later, as members of rescue and recovery crews began to rotate off the site, they were required to go through a debriefing process led by Wilson and others to reclaim their credentials.

“They had checked in with their credentials upon arrival, and we held onto their credentials until we checked them out,” Wilson said. “We also dealt with police officers, volunteers on the perimeter and construction workers.

Wilson was a participant in one of the most intense rescues of a bombing victim—Nancy Lee Ingram, 63-year-old administrative secretary for the

U.S. Internal Revenue Service—who had taken an early morning break at 8:50 a.m. to go to the Federal Employees Credit Union on the third floor of the Murrah Building to order some personalized checks. After ordering her checks, she had stopped in the hallway to visit with credit union employee Patti Hall when the blast occurred.

Ingram and Hall—who later underwent more than 20 surgical procedures to repair her torn body—were buried under tons of concrete and other debris. Wilson and several others worked together to get the ladies out of the debris, even remaining to work after hearing a false report of another bomb being found in the building.

Wilson said a total of 985 OCFD firefighters participated in the rescue and recovery effort the bombing. In addition, there were about 250 police officers. All told, there were more than 25,000 people who worked the site, he said.



Jack Poe prays at the memorial chair placed in memory of Secret Service agent Mickey Moroney at the Oklahoma City National Memorial. *(Baptist Messenger photo by Bob Nigh)*

Unaware that other fire departments across the state had chaplains, Wilson was delighted to learn there actually were several.

"I was able to bring in about 10 outside fire chaplains from Oklahoma, including Chuck McDade from Midwest City, Danny Ringer from Elk City and others.

Williams, also an FBI chaplain, said the most frustrating aspect of the aftermath of the bombing was coordinating the chaplaincy response.

"One of the things that Jack and I did, along with Jack's wife, Phyllis, that others would not have been able to do quite as well, was that we had an influx of people coming in who wanted to be chaplains and tried to convince us they were chaplains," he said in a *Baptist Messenger* interview at the 20th anniversary of the bombing.

To stem the tide of unqualified chaplains, Williams said, "Everyone wishing to serve as a chaplain was required to go to the command center to get credentials to be allowed inside the perimeter. Some of them were getting credentials to get inside just to take pictures of bodies, or pick up pieces of evidence and put them in their pockets. We had about 250 credentialed chaplains eventually."

Not only did Williams, who died in 2016 from bladder cancer, minister as a chaplain, but he also later represented the BGCO as a member of the committee that distributed donated funds to survivors and victims' families. Also serving on that distribution committee was Wilson, who, at the time of the bombing, was fresh out of rookie school. Wilson recently retired as OCFD chaplain after serving in that capacity for 32 years.

Records showed that as of Aug. 9, 1995, donations to help vic-



The north side of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building after a bomb exploded on April 19, 1995.

tims and their families and relief workers totaled \$678,862.63 with \$264,758.31 having been disbursed. Pastors were being asked to personally deliver checks to the recipients. With the stipulation that it be made available immediately as future needs arose, \$125,000 had been placed in the Baptist Foundation by the relief committee.

The relief funds also were used to provide counseling for secondary victims. In addition, donations also were used to bring in Roger Solomon, the world's most prominent Critical Incident Stress Disorder professional. All clergy were invited to a June 26 meeting, which provided guidance in counseling the 4,000 rescue workers and their families (all secondary victims) whose lives were forever affected by their participation in events resulting from the April 19 tragedy.

A later update of the fund revealed that contributions totaling \$691,350.92 had been received, and disbursements of \$314,582.31 had been made to assist victims of the disaster.

In the immediate hours of the response, Phyllis Poe, meanwhile, set up a "Chaplain's Corner" in the parking garage of nearby One Bell Central. She eventually compiled a list of 255 chaplains—including 27 military chaplains, because Jack also was state chaplain for the National Guard—who showed up to minister to the victims, survivors and first responders.

The Poes worked tirelessly in the weeks, months and years after the bombing, pouring their hearts and souls into the lives of others. The smiles on their faces and the ubiquitous hugging masked their anger and the bitterness of not being able to forgive the perpetrators of the horrendous crime eating at them inside, and that eventually led to an unstable marriage.

"I didn't know where to put my anger. I had a lot of anger. Anger that people were hurt; that people died. Anger that our lives were changed within seconds, because you'll never be the same," Phyllis confessed in a *Baptist Messenger* article at the 20th anniversary of the bombing. "No matter where we go, what we do, we talk about the bombing. It comes up somehow. Before the bombing, after the bombing. It's one of those markers in your life."

Things came to a head in 1999, and the Poes were "saved," by Williams, who arranged for them to attend a compassion fatigue seminar in Florida.

"Joe came to the house, and had airplane tickets to Florida for us to go to what we thought was a big conference on something called compassion fatigue," Phyllis recounted. "But, when we got there, the 'conference' was for just the two of us. Joe, along with the Lord, saved our marriage by coming over and loving us."

In the days and months following the bombing, the response and outpouring of love and self-sacrifice made by Oklahomans came to be known as the "Oklahoma Standard."

Anthony L. Jordan, now retired Executive Director-Treasurer of the BGCO, and pastor of Oklahoma City, Northwest at the time of the bombing, wrote 20 years after the tragedy in his *Perspective* column in the *Baptist Messenger* that, "In the hours and days that followed the bombing, one thing became clear. Oklahoma faced tragedy in a different way than had been evidenced in other parts of the country and world. Volunteers, companies, and first responders rushed to the site, offering themselves, equipment, food, and anything needed to help with the search and rescue effort. Rescue teams came from around the world to help. Television and radio broadcasts would announce a need for water, gloves, or boots, and within minutes, long lines of cars formed at the drop-off site and there would be more items than could be used. The heart of Oklahoma people was evident to the world. No need went unmet.

"I remember walking among the rubble as a volunteer chaplain. I walked beside the crater left by the bomb. Staring up close at the gnarled building, my mind found it hard to comprehend the level of evil displayed. Here, innocent lives were snuffed out without remorse. Satan had hurled a mighty blow.

"April 19 will be remembered as long as Oklahoma City stands. April 19 will not be remembered for the triumph of evil, but will be remembered for the victory of faith, love, and kindness displayed by the people of the heartland—people from the buckle of the Bible belt. On that fateful day and in the days that followed, faith, hope, love, and goodness would be on display. The last word to define April 19 is not death, but hope!"

North of the Murrah Building across NW 5th St. stands the Journal Record Building, which, today, houses the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum, which was completed in February 2001. At the time of the bombing, it was the headquarters for the Journal Record Publishing Co. Built in 1922, its original purpose was to house the multiple Masonic Lodges of Oklahoma City.

The mission statement of the Memorial Museum—which was dedicated on Feb. 19, 2001—declares: "We come here to remember those who were killed, those who survived and those changed forever. May all who leave here know the impact of violence. May this memorial offer comfort, strength, peace, hope and serenity.®"

The museum contains 30,000 square feet of interactive displays which tell the story of that fateful day. It also houses the Oklahoma City National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism, whose stated mission is "to deter and prevent terrorism and to mitigate its effects."

On April 19, 1995, the Journal Record building received extensive damage. The explosion blew the roof off, several floors collapsed,

and broken glass penetrated the entire structure. Fortunately, no fatalities occurred in the building, although there were several critical injuries.

Immediately south of the Journal Record building in what used to be an adjacent parking lot for employees is one of the most enduring symbols of hope which emerged following the blast. The “Survivor Tree”—the only tree in the surrounding area which survived the bombing—is a 100-year-old American elm which now stands as a beacon of hope, survival and resiliency.

Surrounding the Survivor Tree, small Eastern (Oklahoma) Redbud trees represent the Oklahoma first responders, the first to the scene. The two remaining trees are a Chinese pistache and an Amur maple. These non-native trees to Oklahoma represent the rescuers who came from across the nation and world.

Across the street to the south, and on the site of the demolished Murrah Building, is the permanent memorial to the memory of the survivors and those who lost their lives. The area, dedicated on April 19, 2000, the fifth anniversary of the bombing, is bracketed by the “The Gates of Time,” monuments, which forever frame a moment of destruction and tragedy. The 9:01 gate to the east is a symbolic reference to the last minute of innocence for our nation in regards to domestic terrorism. The 9:03 gate is a symbolic reference to the first minute of recovery, the moment when grieving, and healing, began. The time of 9:02 a.m. stretches between the two, representing a tragically long minute in which citizens were killed, survived and changed forever.

Stretching between the Gates of Time—and along what once was the surface of N.W. 5th St.—is a reflecting pool flanked by sidewalks which offer a place of quiet solitude and an avenue for visitors to stroll the grounds of the memorial.

On the south side of the reflecting pool—the site where the Murrah Building stood—is a grassy area which includes a Field of Chairs arranged in nine rows, representing the nine floors of the Murrah Building. Each chair, representing an individual's life, is placed on the row (or the floor) they would have worked on or were visiting at the time of the bombing. Within each row, chairs are grouped by agency, and then in alphabetical order progressing from east to west.

The chairs are also arranged to abstractly reflect the outline of the blast cavity of the Murrah Building, with the densest concentration of chairs reflecting the most severe damage to the building. The five chairs located on the western side of the field are positioned in a column. These chairs represent the five people who did not die within the federal building.

Book, concerts celebrate 60th Anniversary of The Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma

Editor's Note: This article is comprised of excerpts from the upcoming 12-inch-by-12-inch, soft-cover coffee table book, This is their Story! This is their Song!, which was written by retired Baptist Messenger Associate Editor Dana Williamson and designed by Rick Boyd of BOYDesign.

The introduction to a new book now in production to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of The Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma (SCM) states, "Why I had not thought of this before that day, I'll never understand," lamented Gene Bartlett, director of the music department for Oklahoma Baptists, and the man credited with bringing together a singing group of ministers of music in 1960, soon to be known as The Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma.

This is their story! This is their song! Continues:

Since that day at Immanuel Baptist Church in Tulsa, when a group of ministers of music got together informally to sing, The Churchmen, the second group of its kind organized in the Southern Baptist Convention (The first was the Sons of Jubal from the Georgia Convention in the mid-1950s), has appeared in venues throughout the world. A top-notch male choir, the group has toured extensively, and captured the admiration of audiences with an ever-present commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, balancing voices in a unified effort, and creating a blend which produces a sound all its own.

A sense of spiritual mission sets The Singing Churchmen apart as unique. Their music is aptly described as 'preaching through the notes.' They are devoted musicians using their talents to Communicate the story of Christ, each member bringing his own individual gifts, talents and creativity to the group. Since their inception in 1960, the men have been dedicated to presenting gospel music with passion and artistry. The goal has always been ministry to their Lord and His church.

Since the first group, composed of about 35 full-time ministers of music, the choir has grown to nearly 300 singers, and is comprised additionally of men who serve in churches as volunteer and bivocational musicians. The membership also includes, pastors, other church staff members, evangelists and retired church musicians. The only rewards the men receive are the joy and satisfaction of



In 2003, the Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma attracted a large crowd to their concert in the world-famous Sydney Opera House. Photo by Bob Nigh

singing with the group.

Drawn together by a common professional interest and the opportunity to share in ministry, they receive no compensation and pay their own way to concerts and on mission trips to share the story of Jesus in song. Throughout their 60 years, these men have used their gift of music received from God to make a difference.

To also celebrate the SCM's 60th anniversary, conductor Randy Lind, who became leader of the group in 2012, has put together a series of concerts to celebrate the milestone. The books, which are priced at \$20, will be available for purchase at the concert venues.

"Instead of having one large concert event, we are going to be traveling around the state and connecting with specific churches associated with our directors," Lind said.

The schedule includes concerts Oct. 8 at Tulsa, First (Jim Woodward); Nov. 12 at Elk City, First (Bill Green); and Jan. 14, 2021 at Oklahoma City, Southern Hills (Lind). Other stops include Feb. 4, 2021 at Tulsa, South Tulsa and March 4, 2021 at Ponca City, First.

"The final concert of the season will be April 8, 2021 at Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) in Shawnee, where so many of our men have gone to school and were influenced by Dean Woodward as well," Lind added. "There will be a banquet prior to the concert at OBU for SCM and guests. We also will have a "video package" available that will have testimonies and stories from some of the members, with an opening from me, and



The Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma present a concert at Golgotha Baptist Church in Moscow, Russia in 2014. Photo: Bob Nigh

closing from Bill Green.

This is their Story! This is their song! outlines how the SCM came together in the beginning:

There are no accidents with God, so to say the formation of The Singing Churchmen was an accident would not be accurate. Yet the group did start very 'informally.' Although there are a couple of versions of how The Churchmen was birthed, it is agreed that it happened during a Western Church Music Conference sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board at Immanuel Baptist Church in Tulsa in August 1960. Western, by the way, referred to the region, not the type of music.

One story goes that Gene Bartlett, director of the church music department for Oklahoma Baptists, during a lull in the program, put a group of ministers of music in the choir loft, passed out music and led them through it. A more formal account states that during a conference break, William J. (Bill) Reynolds, former Oklahoma minister of music, and then music editor in the church music department of the Sunday School Board, asked Bartlett if he could get a group of Oklahoma music directors together and have them sing for about thirty minutes for the session.

Glenn Boyd, a seminary student at the time and later successor to Bartlett in the Oklahoma Baptists church music department, said he remembers that for some reason the program sort of fell apart, and Reynolds came to the Oklahomans

to rescue it.

However they got together at that time, James D. Woodward, who was minister of music at First Baptist Church in Tulsa, and later would be named director of the group, said, "The sound we made that day may be commonplace around the Southern Baptist Convention today, but then, it was new, fresh and, at least to those of us producing it, electrifying. The experience was so exhilarating for us all that we purposed to do some singing every time we came together for the various statewide meetings."

Soon afterward, Bartlett announced he was organizing a singing group of ministers of music to be known as the Oklahoma Baptist Singing Churchmen. The group would make its first appearance at the State Brotherhood Convention at Trinity Baptist Church in Oklahoma City on Nov. 14-15, 1960. The group's second appearance would be at the annual meeting of Oklahoma Baptists that met shortly thereafter at First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City.

From its inception, the SCM were immensely popular. The commemorative book states, "The Nov. 24, 1960, issue of the *Baptist Messenger* had this to say after The Churchmen's first public appearance: 'The Singing Churchmen, a new musical group made up mainly of music directors from the churches, presented several special numbers which were well received by the many messengers who had already filled the auditorium.' (During the Oklahoma Baptists' annual meeting.) From this point on, the men were often invited to sing at special Oklahoma Baptists events.

The first project of the new group was to raise money for a music chapel at Falls Creek Baptist Assembly (now Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center). Bartlett scheduled concerts for The Churchmen at First Baptist Church, Ardmore; Trinity Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, and Sequoyah Hills Baptist Church in Tulsa. An offering for the music building was taken at each concert. The cost of the new building was estimated to be between \$60,000 and \$75,000.

The *Baptist Messenger* reported that the new organization would include all ministers of music, ministers of music and education, part-time and volunteer music directors and that all men who were interested should meet at Trinity on November 14. Yet, the booklet written for the 45th anniversary of The Churchmen states that the choir was made up entirely of full-time ministers of music and was by "Invitation only."

From the beginning, the SCM have dedicated themselves to sharing the Gospel wherever God would lead. This commitment has taken the SCM across the state of Oklahoma, the United States and many parts of the world. The ministry and



Longtime SCM director Bill Green leads the group at a concert.

music of the Singing Churchmen have led them to minister in Israel, Armenia, Spain, China, Estonia, two trips to Russia, Australia, and Portugal. In 1991 the SCM sang at “Prai-Sing” in Nashville, Tenn., and in 1998, the SCM, their sister organization, the Singing ChurchWomen of Oklahoma (SCW), and the Oklahoma Baptist Symphony (OBS) were invited to sing at the Southern Baptist Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The group has had only a few leaders in its 50 years. Soon after forming the group, Bartlett relinquished conducting duties to Jim Woodward. Following Woodward were Bill Green, Ken Gabrielse and Randy Lind.

This is their Story! This is their song! says of the switch to Woodward as SCM leader, “From that day forward, except for about 18 months in 1969-70 when he served as director of The Centurymen, a group of ministers of music across the Southern Baptist Convention, Woodward was the choral director and Bartlett served as the business manager and decision-maker, doing much of the legwork for the group.”

On Jan. 14, 1991, Woodward, Oklahoma Baptist church music director Paul Magar, his wife, Judy, and Mary June Tabor, longtime Oklahoma Baptist music assistant, were killed in a plane crash. The quartet was returning from a Singing ChurchWomen concert in Woodward. That tragic crash would forever change the history of The Churchmen.

An Associated Press news story said Woodward’s private plane strayed twice from the path to Will Rogers World Airport and was headed away from the airport when the single-engine Mooney M20J

dove into a field located one mile north of downtown Newcastle and five miles south of the Oklahoma City airport. The impact was such that the engine plowed five feet into the ground. Light rain had reduced the visibility to less than 700 feet, officials said.

David Gonzalez, Will Rogers' air traffic manager, said Woodward switched to the instrument landing system to guide him to the airport runway after he failed to find it visually. Woodward, who had 5,000 hours of flying time, flew off course at least twice while searching for the airport's signal, and controllers had to guide him back onto the approach path, Gonzalez said. Finally, the pilot indicated he was receiving the signal. That was the last transmission made between Woodward and the control tower, Gonzalez said. The plane crashed at 10:47 p.m.

The Churchmen sang for both Woodward's funeral on the campus of Oklahoma Baptist University and the Magars' and Tabor's joint funeral at Council Road Baptist Church in Bethany. Don Blackley, minister of music at First Baptist Church in Norman, was asked to assume the position of interim SCM director, and Green took up the reins of the group soon after.

When Green was elected to head the church music department by the Oklahoma Baptists board of directors in May 1991, he told board members that when he heard about the plane crash, the Lord told him, "You're going to have to deal with this somehow." He said he didn't understand until a man from Oklahoma called for permission to recommend him for the church music job.

"I think this is what the Lord means, and this is where I'm supposed to serve," Green related. "I'm here because God has led me to this place." A magna cum laude graduate of OBU, the man who would soon take over directorship of the SCM had directed the Singing Men of West Texas and North Central Texas.

Green conducted the SCM from his arrival in Oklahoma in 1991 as BGCO Church Music Department director until their 2008-2009 season. He led the SCM as they traveled abroad on several mission trips, including Latvia, Estonia and Russia in 1993 and China in 1996, performing concerts in Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Hong Kong. In 2003, the men traveled to Australia to present concerts and lead training conferences in Sydney, Newcastle, Brisbane, and surrounding communities. The internationally-known Sydney Opera House was a concert venue for the mission trip.

In 2014, the SCM ministered at churches in Moscow and at the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia.

Their 2009 trip to Armenia and Israel included a concert before their largest audience ever, an estimated 1 million people at the Armenian Genocide Memorial in Yerevan.

As the SCM became well-known, the men were invited to participate in events across the nation as well as perform for radio and television shows. While continuing to give up to 10 concerts a year, The Churchmen also participated in numerous events outside the church walls.

Their first television appearance was on the popular local *Tom Paxton Show* on WKY-TV in Oklahoma City on Sept. 18, 1964. They also made several appearances on the local CBS affiliate *Gaylon Stacy Show* in the 1960s.

During the Christmas season of 1965, the men were featured on *Great Choirs of America*, a production of NBC Radio. Under the direction of Woodward, The Churchmen sang hymn arrangements, gospel songs, spirituals and Christmas carols. The sound of The Churchmen was carried by radio throughout the nation on NBC stations. They were heard again on the same program in August and September 1968.

They appeared on the program of the National Royal Ambassador Congress at the State Fairgrounds in Oklahoma City on Aug. 13-15, 1968.

Since The Churchmen's inception, the men have sung at numerous Oklahoma Baptist evangelism conferences and state conventions. One notable appearance was at the 1973 annual meeting of Oklahoma Baptists at MacMahon Auditorium in Lawton, where a future president of the United States was in the audience. Jimmy Carter, then governor of Georgia, was a featured speaker for the event. He would be elected president three years later.

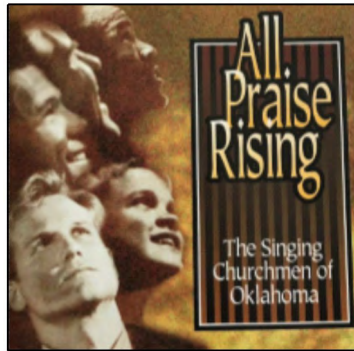
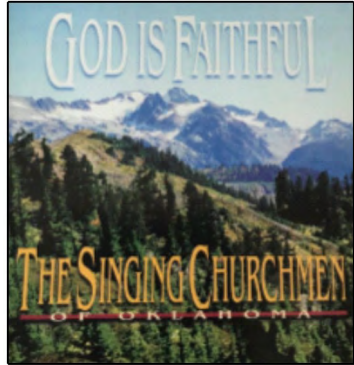
Over its 60-year history, The Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma have created an impressive catalog of recordings. During their early years, many of these recordings were with major Christian labels, such as Word, Light, Impact and Paragon. Several were even made with well-known Christian artists and composers, such as Hale and Wilder, Ralph Carmichael and Bill Gaither. In recent years, they have frequently recorded with the Singing ChurchWomen, Oklahoma Baptist Symphony and Oklahoma Baptist Children's Chorus. Their recordings have been made in studios and auditoriums stretching from Nashville to Hollywood. And on several occasions were recorded live, both internationally (St. Petersburg, Beijing and Sydney) and closer to home (Fort Worth, Shawnee and Moore).

The group's list of recordings includes: Singing Churchmen, 1963; The Singing Churchmen, 1964; What Wondrous Love, 1965; The Sound of Christmas and One of These Days, 1967; Christ the Only Hope, 1969; The Singing Churchmen with Ralph Carmichael, and America, 1973; Rise Up O Men of God, 1974; Devotion &

Praise, and Give Thanks and Sing!, 1975; The Church Triumphant, and Unto Us a Child is Born, 1976; Recapitulation: The Best of the Singing Churchmen, Vol. 1 and 2, 1979; Majesty, 1981; Classic, 1985; El Shaddai: The Musical, 1986; Tuesday Night Live at Southwestern Seminary, 1988; Tuesday Night Live at Oklahoma City, Northwest, 1989; Stand Firm, 1992; The Singing Churchmen Live at Oktober Hall in St. Petersburg, Russia, 1993; No Night There, 1994; Tribute, 1995; Exaltation, 1996; God is Faithful, 1998; All Praise Rising, 2002; Live! From Sydney, 2003; Foundation, 2005; Come to Jesus, 2007; The Applause of Heaven, 2012; The Journey of Christmas, 2015; Let Everything That Hath Breath, 2016; Legacy of Faith, 2017 and This is My Testimony, 2019. The years and decades have seen the group travel across Oklahoma, much of the United States, and many parts of the world. Some of the men still in the group have been members since its inception.

“Music is the outward thing that people see and certainly hear when the SCM gather; however, music alone has not been the glue that has held the Churchmen together,” Lind commented. “The SCM began, and continue, to have a passion to share the Gospel through their lives and in their music. Behind the scenes and in the weeks between concerts, the SCM are engaged in ministry in the local church. The ‘secret sauce’ for the SCM is the strong network of prayer and other types of support that the men have. This is a rare and needed thing in a man’s life.”

This is their story! This is Their Song! also features many stories and remembrances from the group’s members.



HISTORICAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bob Nigh, Historical Secretary

Several items of special historical significance were donated to the Gaskin Baptist Archives housed at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee during 2019.

Included were five notebooks filled with writings by former Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO/Oklahoma Baptists) Executive Director-Treasurer William G. Tanner. The collection was donated by officials with the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas, for which Tanner served as president for several years.

Falls Creek youth encampment programs from 1950, 1962 and 1964, along with a cardboard fan used to keep a camper cool in the sweltering heat of a southern Oklahoma sun, were donated by LeRoy Fore of Tulsa.

Fort Gibson, First donated either an intact, or pieces of, issues of the *Baptist Beacon* printed in 1945-46, and a copy of the April 13, 1950 issue of the *Baptist Messenger*, which ran a teaser on its cover about a story on page 3: "Vacation Bible Schools are Fun, ask the Moores of Muskogee association." The "Moores" were missionary Jay W.C. Moore and his wife (No name given), who had conducted 85 VBS sessions in the past 10 years in the association.

L.B. and Marie Flanigan donated several books written by Nicey Murphy, former assistant executive secretary of the Oklahoma WMU and, later, executive secretary of the Colorado WMU (1956-57) and the Great Plains Baptist Convention WMU (1968-76). Colorado Baptists named their state missions offering after Murphy, much like the Oklahoma offering is named for Edna McMillan.

The books include *The Flip Side, or Workin' for the Lord ain't all That Dull*; *The 30th Child of Southern Baptists* about the birth and early childhood of the Great Plains Association, and a biography of her mother: *Agnes Murphy, Whatta Woman!* Also donated was a copy of a conference study guide presented by Murphy at the Giorieta, N.M. Conference Center titled, *The Shocking Case of Murder in the Church, or Who is Killing Mission Study?*

Mary Ellen Keeton of Kingston and Don Baxter of Oklahoma City were elected as new members of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission by messengers to the BGCO Annual Meeting in November. Assignments and chairpersons of the Commission's standing committees were made at the OBHC spring semi-annual meeting at the Baptist Building in Oklahoma City, including: Distinguished Service Award: Andy Latta, Chair, Luke Holmes and Terry Brooks; Gaskin Church History Award: Don Baxter, Chair, Mary Ellen Keeton and Bill Haggard; Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame: Luke Holmes,

Chair, Mary Ellen Keeton and Richard McCullough; Gaskin Baptist Archives: Leona Marion, Chair, Don Baxter and Richard McCullough.

The autumn 2019 edition of the *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle* included articles about the two men inducted this year into the Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame—Anson Justice and Vernon Max Malone—and profiles of the two people who received the 2019 Distinguished Service Award—Robert E. Haskins and Pat Wagstaff.

The Historical Secretary was privileged to produce anniversary certificates for 20 state churches during 2019, and was honored to attend several of the observances. Churches celebrating anniversaries in 2019 included Atoka, Hillcrest – 50th; Barnsdall, Victory – 25th; Bethel Acres, New Hope – 125th; Cherokee Association – 150th; Comanche, First – 125th; Elk City, Fairview – 60th; Enid, First – 125th; Geary, First – 125th; Kingfisher, First – 125th; Laverne, First – 100th; Midwest City, First – 75th; Noble, Etowah – 100th; Oklahoma City, Eagle Heights – 25th; Panama, First – 100th; Red Oak, First – 125th; Roland Hills – 50th; Sapulpa, Faith – 25th; Vinita, Bunker Hill – 75th; Wellston, First – 125th; and Wynona, First – 100th.

The Historical Secretary continues to receive and respond in a timely manner to requests from churches and individuals for historical information, assistance with research and help in preparing anniversary observances.

Digitalization of Falls Creek tapes and videos underway

>> by Bob Nigh, Historical Secretary, Director of History

Most people have old family and vacation photographs and negatives stashed away on shelves or in boxes. They probably also have CDs, VCR tapes or old 8 mm and 16 mm home movies packed away in a closet never to see the light of day again.

The same is true for the Gaskin Baptist Archives housed in the Mabee Learning Center at Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) in Shawnee. Almost 800 audio reel-to-reel tapes and film reels—mostly of services and events which happened at Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center—had been collected during the years. The oldest date back to 1946.

During their Spring meeting last year, members of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission voted to begin the process of digitalizing those tapes and films to ensure their viability and availability for access by researchers and others interested in Oklahoma Baptist history. To begin the process, a list of nearly 20 tapes and 16 mm films was compiled, and special collections librarian Rachel Walker has forwarded those items for digitalization.

The cost to convert the audio tapes is \$100 each. The 16 mm films are scanned, frame-by-frame, into 4K high-definition format at a price of 99 cents per foot. The film lengths are estimated to be about 300 feet each, thus amounting to a cost of \$600 for the two films in question. Walker said the Gaskin Digitalization Fund has \$2,450 available, enough to cover the cost.

When converted, the tapes and movies will be available for viewing in the OBU digital repository at digitalcollections.okbu.edu.



The oldest item in the collection is a 16 mm silent film from 1946. It has an additional label which reads, "Charley Taylor preaching at Falls Creek."

“Digitalizing these tapes and films will help preserve the information on them and make them more accessible to researchers and others interested in their historical significance,” Walker said.

Historical Commission members Luke Holmes of Tishomingo and Leona Marion of Oklahoma City worked with the Oklahoma Baptists’ Historical Secretary to compile the initial list of tapes and films for conversion.

“We believe this is a very important project and necessary to preserve the images and sounds on these tapes,” Holmes said. “It certainly would be unfortunate to have them deteriorate to the point that the information is lost.”

Audio tapes being digitalized include sermons by popular Falls Creek pastors through the years, including Charley Taylor, who spoke there in 1942, 1946, 1949, 1951 and 1952. A recording of the B.B. McKinney Chapel groundbreaking is another significant tape, as are an interview with Sam Scantlan by J.M. Gaskin and a testimony by John Bisagno, who preached at Falls Creek on many occasions.



Other recorded sermons include those by Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary and executive director of the Foreign Mission Board (Now the International Mission Board) of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1954-1979, and Herschel H. Hobbs—a prolific author, preacher and radio program host. Hobbs was pastor of Oklahoma City, First from 1949-72. He is also the namesake of OBU’s Herschel H. Hobbs College of Theology and Ministry.

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Historical Commission members agreed that completing such a massive project will be daunting, and they are hoping churches and other groups across the state will recognize the importance of completing the project and be willing to sponsor one, two—or even several—tapes to be digitalized.

Churches or groups interested in participating in the digitalization project are urged to call Historical Secretary Bob Nigh at 405/990-0123, or email him at okbaptisthistoryman@gmail.com.

NECROLOGY

Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2019

Adams, Laddie Ray died Feb. 10. He served in pastoral ministry at Oklahoma Baptist churches in Cheyenne, Cordell, Enid and Keyes and as BGCO director of language missions when he and his wife, Nita, were commissioned as missionaries for the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board. He established the Oklahoma Baptist disaster relief organization.

Allen, Delmer Lee died Aug. 10. He pastored in California and Hawaii and he and his wife, Ramona, served as IMB missionaries in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and in Bangalore, India.

Allen, John died June 9. He served as pastor of Paoli, First and Noble, First and was a retired director of missions in Enon Association.

Barber, Glenn died July 21. He served as children's minister at Moore, First before becoming the children's ministry specialist with the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and program director for CrossTimbers Children's Mission Adventure Camp.

Billings, Gerald Thomas "Tommy" died Feb. 26. He pastored Pond Creek, First and Waurika, First. He also served on the board of directors for Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children and as director of missions for Mullins Association.

Billings, Tommy Lynn died Feb. 5. He was a retired director of missions in Mullins Association.

Brown, Valorie died Nov. 17. She was a retired LeFlore Association administrative assistant and wife of LeFlore Association pastor Monte Brown.

Canoe, Richard Morgan died Aug. 2. He was a long-time Southern Baptist minister.

Carney, Danny died Feb. 6. He was the brother of Derrick Carney, pastor of Luther, First.

Coffelt, Larry Earl died June 23. He was pastor of Maner Church.

Colston, Robert "Bob" died Nov. 20. He was the retired manager of the Oklahoma City Baptist (LifeWay) Book Store and served in many Baptist churches as a Lay Renewal Coordinator.

Coppedge, Joe died April 2. He spent 45 years preaching the Gospel in numerous churches in Oklahoma and Missouri.

Davis, Don died March 21. He was the brother of Pat Jones, BGCO Equipping Team.

Davis, Jack died Feb. 18. He was the husband of Susan Davis, Tulsa Metro Association ministry assistant.

DeMoss, Rodney died Feb. 3. He was the father of Mark DeMoss, pastor of Oklahoma City, Capitol Hill.

Dixon, Betty Sue died Oct. 21. She was the wife of Curtis Dixon, with whom she served as an IMB missionary in Brazil, Angola and Portugal.

Doke, Dedra died April 30. She was music director at Pocasset, First.

Dominic, Pete Jr. died Oct. 9. He was the father of Rick Dominic, Pittsburg Association director of missions.

Dooley, Glenn died Dec. 7. It is believed that he worked for Oklahoma Baptists longer than any other individual. He began as a printer for the Bison Press in Shawnee in 1947. He then moved to Oklahoma City where he worked for *The Baptist Messenger* beginning in 1954 and retired in 1997.

Frase, Virgil died April 27. He was the father/father-in-law of Tina and Shawn Nichols, pastor of Oklahoma City, Wilmont Place.

Freas, Sam died March 24. He was swimming and diving coach at Oklahoma Baptist University, leading the Bison to seven national championships, and also was a professor in OBU's physical education and health and human performance departments..

Fuller, William died June 11. He served at the East Central Association youth camp on Lake Tenkiller, in many Oklahoma Baptist churches and as East Central Association director of missions.

Gaskin, Jesse Marvin died Jan. 8. He served as pastor in Coalgate, Durant, Heavener and Tonkawa, and was a founding member of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society. He authored thirty books and was the original and long-time editor of the *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle*.

Gatton, Thomas died Feb. 7. He was the father of Charlie Gatton, CrossTimbers Children's Mission Adventure Camp program director and children's ministry specialist.

Gordon, Janie died April 27. She was the wife of Ed Gordon, pastor of Bartlesville, Trinity.

Gregory, Mary died Nov. 9. She was the mother of Chris Forbes, Oklahoma Baptists' Branding and Marketing Ministry Partner.

Granados, Jose died in September. He was pastor of Lawton, Primera Iglesia Bautista.

Hall, Edna Louise died April 3. She was married for more than 50 years to Billy Hall, who pastored many Oklahoma churches, and they both served as house parents for Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children and fostered more than 50 children.

Hall, Lloyd Eugene died June 16. He was a long-time pastor at Burns Flat and Arapaho, First and chaplain at the Baptist Village retirement home in Cleveland. He was the father of Oklahoma pastors Greg and Shane Hall.

Hambrick, Fred died Aug. 5. He pastored numerous churches in Arkansas and Oklahoma, most recently Midwest City, Crest.

Hawkins, William Marlin died June 21. He was employed by Glorieta Conference Center in Glorieta, N.M., and as administrator of education at Duncan, First before becoming the chief financial officer of the BGCO, an office he held for more than 25 years.

Hinson, Robert J. died Nov. 25. He served as pastor of Midwest City, First for 40 years and of Marlow, First.

Jones, Joe Thomas died March 7. He was the father of Joe Ligon, pastor of Marlow, First and BGCO senior associate executive director.

Kirkhuff, Dale died March 26. He pastored for more than 50 years at churches in California and Texas., including Lexington, First and Noble, Twelve Corners.

Lovejoy, Bob died Sept. 24. He was pastor of Fletcher, First; Oklahoma City, Carey Heights and Pawhuska, Lynn; Comanche-Cotton Association director of missions and program manager for African-American church relations and Christian social ministries.

Mantle, Robert E. died Jan. 14 he was a pastor in Oklahoma and planted churches in Indiana and Missouri.

Masters, Jeremy died Oct. 18. He was the son of Jeff Masters, Oklahoma Baptists' Security Team.

McClain, Mary died May 3. She served as president of the Oklahoma Woman's Missionary Union from 1977-1981.

McDowell, Raymond died Feb. 3. He pastored many Oklahoma churches, including Binger, First; Chickasha, College Heights; Mus-

tang, Chisholm Heights and churches in Galey and Sharon. He also served on the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma board of directors and worked closely with Capital Association.

McNeece, George died Feb. 24. He was the father of Greg McNeece, Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children president.

McPherson, Nadine Faye died April 26. She served on the Oklahoma Baptist University Board of Trustees for eight years.

Miller, Cheryl died Feb. 10. She was the wife of August “Butch” Miller, who pastored Afton, First; Greenfield, First and Langley, First.

Miller, Jene died Jan. 12. She was the wife of Eldridge Miller, who pastored at Sallisaw, First.

Neighbors, Carol Elizabeth died Feb. 23. She was the wife of Scott Neighbors, executive pastor/worship leader at Skiatook, First.

Oswalt, Colleen Annabelle died Sept. 12. She was a Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma retiree.

Owens, Joe Dell died March 24. He was minister of education and associate pastor at Ada, First; Oklahoma City, First and Yukon, First.

Phillips, Retha A. died Dec. 30, 2018. She was the mother/mother-in-law of Scott Phillips, BGCO Operations Team leader and his wife, Fran.

Quigley, Robert died Oct. 17. He was the father of Alan Quigley, BGCO Associate Executive Director for Church Resources.

Rice, Mary Lou died June 26. She was an organist, pianist and music educator and the wife of John Rice, who served as minister of music in Oklahoma, Missouri and Texas.

Robertson, Ronnie died Oct. 31. He was the father of Robby Robertson, pastor of Oklahoma City, Grace Place and grandfather of Rachael Robertson, BGCO Worship and Music Ministry assistant.

Rooker, Betty died Feb. 19. She was the mother of Susan Rooker, Baptist Village Communities of Oklahoma controller.

Russell, Bob died June 11. He was the brother of Tim Russell, director of missions for Grady Association.

Sanmann, Wayne died Oct. 14. He was pastor of Medicine Park, First.

Shank, Lucy Grace died Sept. 17. She held offices in the Oklahoma Woman’s Missionary Union and she and her husband, Carl, were long-time supporters of Boys Ranch, sponsoring the Carl and

Lucy Shank Equine Center and helping to establish the Vo-tech welding program.

Sherrill, William E. "Bill" III died Feb. 8. He was pastor of Jones, First; Beaver, First; Checotah, First and a retired director of missions for Muskogee Association.

Smith, Bailey, died Jan. 14. He was pastor of Del City, First Southern and an evangelist. He served as SBC president, 1980-82.

Staggs, H. Glenn died March 15. He served many Oklahoma churches, most recently as associate pastor and minister of education at Midway Southern in Dibble.

Taylor, Raymond died Feb. 1. He was the father-in-law of Susan Taylor, BGCO accounting clerk.

Thomasson, Belinda died Dec. 31, 2018. She was the wife of Richard Thomasson, director of missions for Kay Association.

Thompson, Mamie Jean died Feb. 23. She served in ministry with her husband, Johnny Harold Thompson.

Wiginton, Travis E. died June 4. He served as pastor in many Oklahoma Baptist churches, including Norman, Bethel and Nicoma Park, First. He also served the IMB as a missionary in Korea, Baptist Student Union director at the University of Oklahoma and chairman of the SBC Home Mission Board.

Wilder, Glenn died Nov. 28. He was the father of James Wilder, Pottawatomie-Lincoln Associational Missions Strategist.

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.

Ramona Allen, Wilburton

Given by John and Pat Hart

Ramona Allen, Wilburton

Given by Delmer, Charity and Tim Allen

James Ball, Claremore

Given by Lemuel Ball

Margie Ball, Claremore

Given by Lemuel Ball

Bob Burrows, Amarillo, Texas

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

Pluma Cantrell, Wilburton

Given by Del and Ramona Allen

Rose Chronister, Sallisaw

Given by Sans Bois Baptist Association

E. Farrell Dixon, Tulsa

Given by Curtis and Betty Dixon

Donald R. Dunn, Chickasha

Given by Jimmie L. Dunn

Jack Everhart, Oklahoma City

Given by Del and the late Ramona Allen

Betty Farris, Muskogee

Given by Del and Ramona Allen

Virginia Ann Fry, Claremore

Given by Lemuel Ball

Helen Isom Gaskin, Durant

Given by Patricia A. Roberts

Joseph Alexander Gaskin, Cartersville

Given by J. M. Gaskin

Jesse Marvin Gaskin, Durant

Given by Del Allen

Jim Glaze, Montgomery, Ala.

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

George Hill, Coalgate

Given by Margaret Hill

George Hill, Coalgate

Given by J. M. Gaskin

Mrs. Carrell Hooper, Durant

Given by J.M. and Helen Gaskin

Carleen Jones, Oklahoma City

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

Norma Jordan, Bartlesville

Given by Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission

Nadean Justice, Oklahoma City

Given by J. M. Gaskin

Murray Leath, Plano, Texas

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

Dick Lovelady, Bethany

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

Clara Luedecke, Weatherford, Texas

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

Burl Mackey, Edmond

Given by Jonell Crawford

Carl Mackey, Kingfisher

Given by Jonell Crawford

Charles Mackey, Durant

Given by Mrs. Robert Mackey

Robert Mackey, Durant

Given by Mrs. Robert Mackey

Bob Maxwell, Fayetteville, Ark.

Given by Del Allen

Lee McWilliams, Durant

Given by Patricia Roberts

Maye McWilliams, Durant

Given by Patricia Roberts

John H. Morton, Durant

Given by Bill J. Morton

Emma L. Shoemate Morton, Durant

Given by Bill J. Morton

Wenonah Willene Pierce, Fayetteville, Ark.

Given by Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission

Wenonah Willene Pierce, Fayetteville, Ark.

Given by Del and Ramona Allen

Marie Ratliff, Wilburton

Given by Center Point Baptist Church

John D. Riggs, Durant

Given by J.M. Gaskin

Todd Sheldon, Dallas, Texas

Given by the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission

Todd Sheldon, Dallas, Texas

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

John L. Smith, Marlow

Given by Winfred Knight

Cathy Spain, Midwest City

Given by Winfred T. and Grace L. Knight, Jr.

Max Stanfield, Oklahoma City

Given by Winfred T. and Grace L. Knight, Jr.

William G. Tanner, Belton, Texas

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

James Timberlake, Atlanta, Ga.

Given by Kathyryne Timberlake

Thelma Townsend, Oklahoma City

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

Lawrence Van Horn, Oklahoma City

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

H. Alton Webb, Anadarko

Given by J.M. and Helen Gaskin

Almeda Welch, Durant

Given by J.M. and Helen Gaskin

Hazel Marie Williams White, Wilburton

Given by Del and Ramona Allen

MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLICATION POLICIES

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The *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle* is sent without cost to regular members of the Society. Non-members may purchase in any quantity surplus copies at \$2 each, plus postage. Members may purchase additional copies, beyond the regular single copy which goes to all paid members, for \$1 each, plus postage. Send orders to the Historical Secretary, Baptist Building, 3800 N. May Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73112-6506.

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