

# LANDMARK BAPTIST HISTORIAN

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"Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will show thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee."

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## REASONS WHY I AM A BAPTIST. ELDER J. CHAS. COLYAR.

1. Because I could not take the New Testament as it reads and conscientiously be anything else.

2. Because I cannot find the place nor name of the man who organized the first Baptist church this side of Christ, and I can find the name of the man and the year that every other denomination was organized.

3. The Baptist is the only denomination that does not make Christ a liar; by trying to prove that he lost his church after his promise

to be with it alway, even unto the end of the world. Matt. 28:19,20.

4. Baptist is the only church that never received the baptism of a heathen man and publican. Matt. 18:15-19.

5. Baptist is the only denomination that teaches John had Christian baptism. If John did not have Christian baptism and Jesus walked 62 miles to have John baptize him, they leave Jesus without Christian baptism. And Jesus Christ couldn't join any church under Heaven but the Baptist, because he was baptized by John. Matt. 3:16, Mark 1:10. And they teach that John's was not Christian baptism; so if they received Christ into their church upon it, they would have unchristian baptism in their church. Then we ask a simple little question: If Catholics and the brethren of the Reformation deny the baptism of John, we ask where do they get theirs? They all cry with one accord: We received it from Rome! Where did Rome get it? She received it from their first Pope, Peter! Well, Catholic, was Peter ever baptized? And if so, by whom? Yes, he was baptized by John the Baptist, says Catholic.....[unreadable] but a kindly voice said,..... [unreadable]

But wait; you just said John's was not Christian baptism, therefore according to your own claims Peter never could have received Christian baptism at the hands of John, and you are all without Christian baptism. Later I will cover the ground more fully, and show why Peter never was a Pope.

### THE BAPTIST SENTINEL—THURSDAY—MARCH 19, 1896

*Note: This article was copied from microfilm and although a sentence or two were unreadable, it was deemed of enough interest to include for your consideration. Elder Colyar labored in the North-west part of California, associated with Elder T. J. Simmons, who in 1917, led in the organization of the Landmark church in Roseville*



**OPENING ADDRESS  
AT THE SAN FRANCISCO 1959 MESSENGER MEETING  
OF THE CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION**

**L. M. Branch—Moderator**

*Pages 15—17*

Brethren & Sisters in Christ—Fellow Messengers—Friends:

Once again our Lord has, out of His goodness and mercy, blessed the churches composing the California Co-operative Missionary Baptist Association with the privilege of sending messengers to convene at the appointed time and place, for the purpose expressed in the articles of agreement adopted by each co-operating church, as stated in the minutes. May each of us consider this occasion a blessing from God, and a privilege to worship, serve, and honor His worthy name.

Everyone who is acquainted with the work and history of this association of churches is well aware of how God has blessed their efforts in Christian Education and missions. We give God all praise for the wonderful progressive spirit of His churches, pastors, missionaries, and workers. This has enabled more missionaries to receive better financial support, churches to build better Sunday Schools and educational programs, increased moral and financial support for the great Bible School in Bellflower for advanced training of preachers and workers, and encourage the spirit of unity and fellowship among churches and brethren. For all of these, and the countless other blessings, may we lift our hearts to our kind Heavenly Father in praise and thanksgiving.

While we view with thankful hearts the blessings of the past, may we ever keep in mind the great challenge, and unlimited opportunity to serve God under the great commission and command given to each of His Churches, in this fast growing state. The choice, privilege, and the blessing of pleasing God is offered to Christ's churches, and the people who compose them, by continuing to carry out the commands of Christ. This white field of California is truly ripe unto harvest, and the churches of this association are busy at the task of harvesting the golden grain for the Lord. May our merciful Heavenly Father help us, that we may never make the fatal mistake of becoming so involved in less important things, that we would lose this most important vision.

While assemblies such as this affords the enjoyment of fellowship between individuals, and a wonderful spirit of worship in singing, prayer, preaching, etc., may God help us to be prayerful, diligent, and considerate in the business proceedings and discussion of reports, while we all enjoy the wonderful blessing of Freedom of Speech. As we keep in mind the fact that we are messengers from our respective churches, representing them in the deliberations of this great meeting, may we do so as though the whole church congregation we represent, and Christ who is her head, is here watching and listening to everything we say and do. We believe the Holy Scriptures demand such a spirit and service. The past annual meetings of the messengers of this association have been conducted on the highest plain of Christian brotherhood. God has in turn blessed the meetings with great success. May we in this meeting continue in this same manner, and conduct ourselves in such a manner that would become Ambassadors of Christ—Messengers of His Churches—Representatives that represent His Bride.

In view of two schools of thought extant in the world today in the minds of people regarding GENERAL ORGANIZATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS, and such messenger meetings as this, I feel a deep sense of responsibility at this time, as your present moderator, to reaffirm our MISSIONARY BAPTIST Position on this point, as I believe the Scriptures, and sound Baptists everywhere agree to. The co-operating churches that compose this association are not MERGING TOGETHER AS ONE BIG UNIVERSAL CHURCH by this meeting. Neither is this body of messengers empowered with authority that Jesus gave to His Local Church. But Independent, Autonomous, Churches have sent messengers to meet with this good sister church of San Francisco, and her good pastor, Brother Mott, for the purpose of carrying out the working agreements of the churches as set forth in the minutes. Thus, there is no such thing as The Baptist Church, in the universal sense; that all of the local churches merging together in a general assembly, compose. The local churches of this association have not RE-DELEGATED their authority given to them by the Lord into the hands of their messengers, that they may act as "Delegates," and meet to legislate laws for the churches to carry out. But these churches have sent messengers to meet together to discuss the work in which they are mutually engaged, and to recommend to the churches such CHURCH SENT Missionaries, CHURCH OWNED AND OPERATED Schools, Literature, missions, etc. that they deem wise, for cooperative support, according to the agreements. But in no sense is church authority re-delegated into the hands of messengers, that would give them the designation of "delegate," under the Free Association of these churches representing in this meeting by messengers, or letter. This is one of the distinguishing principles between modern Convention Baptists, and regular Missionary Baptists such as are meeting in this assembly. Although the vast majority of the people of the world regard such assemblies as this as a merger of local bodies into a universal body, this is not true with Missionary Baptists. True Missionary Baptists hold that the local bodies never merge into one body, but simply send messengers to represent them in council, according to the working agreement with each other in the mutual faith, and common cause. It is of utmost importance to hold to this great Bible Truth. For this reason, this is not a Legislative body, to legislate laws; and it can only execute laws that come under its jurisdiction. To surrender this principle would be to deviate from the Bible position of faithful Baptists of many years and centuries.

Let us invoke God's blessings on this great meeting by prayer, that these precious principles may be carried out in the spirit of Christ, for His dear sake.

## OPENING ADDRESS

### AT THE CORCORAN— 1960—MESSENGER MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

**L. M. Branch—Moderator**

*Pages 19—21*



Brethren & Sisters in Christ; Fellow Messengers; Friends:

Another year of the precious gift of time has passed since the churches of this association has sent messengers to convene at the appointed time and place. Another year of grace, mercy, privilege and opportunity has been enjoyed from the bountiful hand of our God. Now that we are blessed with the privilege of meeting with this fine host church and pastor, and each other, let us do so with a heart of thanks and gratitude. May we consider the importance and value of this meeting, and open the deliberations with the thought in mind that we are servants of the Lord, and are here as messengers, representing New Testament Churches, to carry out their expressed agreements as stated in the minutes. Thus we are blessed with the privilege of rendering another service for the Master by the gift of this meeting.

When we view the vast field of California with her lost thousands of souls who need the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and compare this with what has actually been accomplished the past year by this cooperative effort of these churches, it seems very little has been done. Yet, when we hear the reports that will be given in this meeting, and look into the record itself, we will see that much has been accomplished, especially when we take into consideration the factors involved, and the problems confronting these churches who preach, teach, and practice the Doctrines of God. The value of the precious souls that have been saved and enlisted in the great cause of Christ by the churches, pastors, missionaries and workers, and the value of the Bible knowledge and practical training received by many brethren and sisters at the great Bible Institute in Bellflower, cannot be measured in dollars and cents. So then, we can truthfully say that much and lasting good progress has been made the past year, for which we should be eternally grateful. Even though the missionaries, school and publications have not been supported as they should, or could have been, yet the records will show that much progress has been made. The overall picture is encouraging. From year to year the churches of this association move FORWARD—not BACKWARD. This is as our Lord wants it. May we thank God for this great blessing.

As we try to envision the coming year and make recommendations to the churches concerning Missions; Christian Education and Christian Literature, may we be cognizant of the fact that these three enterprises constitute the very purpose for the existence of a church in the world. May we also be realistic in our thinking, humble and Christ-like in our attitude and speech, prayerful and considerate in our action, and genuinely progressive in our planning and recommending. And after being blessed with the opportunity to observe the messengers of these churches in deliberations in past messenger meetings, I am convinced that this will still be the order in this meeting. It has truly been an answer to much prayer, and great blessing indeed, to witness the messengers of this association in their deliberations, and see brethren and sisters! maintain a sound associational fellowship, even when there were sometimes honest difference of opinion and conflicting views. Because brethren have captured the Biblical Associational Principles, and have envisioned the scope of the world-wide commission as Christ gave to each of His Churches, and left local church and preacher problems out of this cooperative work, the blessings of harmony, fellowship and progress in work has been enjoyed, and will someday be rewarded by the Master. It is this fine spirit of fellowship and progressive vision that has increased the support of all phases of missions, and the great school at Bellflower. This is the very thing our Lord wants in the association of Independent Missionary Baptist Churches who are working for the advancement of His Cause. These churches, pastors, and their missionaries and leaders are, therefore, to be appreciated.

As we look about us here in Corcoran, where we met in March, 1956, we can see that a church and pastor has been at the Master's business. How wonderful! As we remember the church property four short years ago, then look about us at this magnificent edifice, we can see what God can do with a people who has a mind to build for God. And now that this church and pastor has spent hours of work, and no doubt much expense, to make our stay here during this meeting comfortable and enjoyable, let us conduct ourselves in a manner that will make this meeting a blessing and an encouragement to this church, as well as to the city of Corcoran and this community. May our kind Heavenly Father, through His Spirit, tear down anything that would keep each and everyone from enjoying His presence, and magnifying His Holy Name in this meeting, for His dear sake. May we speak, conduct ourselves, and vote, as though the whole church we represent as a messenger, and the Lord Jesus Christ who is her head, was present in this assembly and watching our every word and action. May the word of Brother Paul when he described the messengers of the churches as the glory of Christ, be breathed into every soul in this meeting, for Jesus' sake.



## Branch, Lloyd Melbourne (ABA)



Brother Branch was born in Texas, March 21, 1919. He surrendered to preach in 1946. He served as a pastor, a missionary, a teacher, and an author for twenty - two years. He pastored Sanger, Coalinga, Oakdale, Salinas and Antioch and was the Assistant Pastor of Bellflower where he also taught in the Seminary until the Lord took him. All the churches he served were in California.

At the time of his death, his dear wife, Naomi, and a son and a daughter survived him.

He served the Lord's churches in the ABA faithfully and was used extensively by them, serving as Interstate and California State missionary, Moderator of the Cooperative Association in California, and many other positions. The last book he authored is entitled "Missionary Baptist Distinctives" published shortly before his death. His address to the Cooperative Association which met in San Francisco, March 24 - 25, 1959, was printed in the minutes and reflected the staunch Baptist he was. He went home to be with the Lord on September 5, 1968.

*History of Landmark Baptists of California—Vol. Two—page 21*  
Published by History & Archives Committee  
Cooperative Association of Missionary Baptist Churches  
of California



### MEMORIAM

We must carry on with courage to face the future as our Bro. L. M. Branch, has faced his new life.

"I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." -- John 8:12



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**From: 1969 Cooperative Association  
of Missionary Baptists of California Yearbook**

## THE BAPTIST SENTINEL

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA 90706

SEPTEMBER, 1968

### EXCELLENT REVIVAL AT PORTERVILLE WITH BRO. HOOPER

By Hoyt Chastain

I just closed a wonderful revival with Brother Hooper and the Church. Two professions of faith, 2 surrendered to the ministry, 2 public apologies, the church has baptised 7 with 3 standing for baptism. Here is a picture of some of the recent additions.



PASTOR HOOPER AND FAMILY

Gary Hooper, Diane Hooper, Debbie Hooper, Audene Hooper, Kenneth Hooper.

### Bro. L. M. Branch Has Gone to Heaven

Our beloved Bro. L. M. Branch has made his triumphant journey from earth to heaven. He departed this life as the result of a sudden fatal heart attack Thursday, September 5th, at 1 p.m.

Brother Lloyd Melbourne Branch was born in Texas, March 21, 1919. He was 49 years old.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Naomi Branch; his son Jerry of Salinas; and his daughter Shirley of the home. Also surviving are five brothers and one sister, all in Texas.

Brother Branch had been in the ministry 22 years. Since 1964, he had served as Church Missionary and Assistant Pastor for the First Missionary Baptist Church of Bellflower.

Funeral services were conducted in the Bellflower church auditorium Monday, September 9th at 2 p.m. by his pastor, Dr. Hoy M. Reed, and his closest friend, Dr.



Martin Canavan. Dr. Hoyt Chastain officiated at the graveside burial in Angeles Abbey, Compton.

We could easily fill this issue of The Sentinel with sincere comments about the life of this saint of the Scriptures. Words are just not adequate.

We envy you, Brother Branch, because by this time you have already seen Jesus whom you loved so much and served so well.

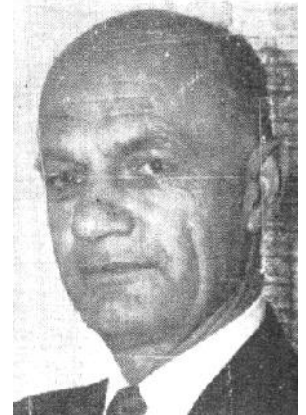
### NOW WE KNOW WHAT YOU ARE

by Roy M. Reed

For many months, even years, suspicion has been mounting about the Communist tag associated with the modern "Peace and Freedom" movement. Informed Americans have frequently warned that the student riots against racism, anti-war demonstrations, antidraft, uprisings, love-ins, sit-ins, freedom marches, teach ins, etc. were char-

acters were suddenly presented with the opportunity of a lifetime to prove beyond any shadow of a doubt that they were, really, sincere. One and for all they could have demonstrated to the world that they had no Communist sympathies and were not duped by the Communist philosophy. The radios cracked out the news, the news-

## Photo Morgue of R. W. Cullifer

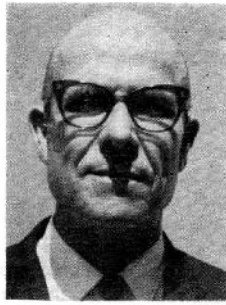


I would certainly welcome any photos you might have access to, to add to my collection. Your help in this matter of preserving our Baptist Heritage is always appreciated.—RWC

## MISSION SECTION



Monroe Patterson



William Havens



L. D. Perdue



L. M. Branch

### MISSIONARIES ON SALARY:

Marlin Gipson (resigned as of August 1st, 1965)  
 Monroe Patterson, 6902 Lubao, Conoga Park, California

### MISSIONARIES ON DESIGNATIONS:

William Havens, 1200 Carlton Dr., Glendale, California  
 L. D. Perdue, 79 Nutley, Ashland, Oregon

### MISSION TREASURER:

L. M. Branch, 14607 So. Liblen, Bellflower, California

From: 1965 Cooperative Association  
 of Missionary Baptists of California Yearbook



## MISSION SECTION

### MEMBERS OF THE MISSIONARY COMMITTEE

Allen Adkins, Box 1438, McFarland  
 L. M. Branch, 15740 Ryon #11, Bellflower  
 D. C. Caves, P.O. Box 651, Brentwood  
 Hoyt Chastain, 10460 Greenhurst, Bellflower  
 Thomas Counts, 7933 Bradshaw Rd., Sacramento  
 June Godbehere, 1723 W. 254th St., Lomita  
 Travis Hubbard, 3211 1-2 E. H-14, Lancaster  
 D. S. Madden, 2011 Ransom Dr., Anaheim  
 Paul Magness, 3409 Longview, Antioch  
 George Walton, 2913 Tully Rd., Modesto  
 G. A. Williams, 1212 Farrel Rd., Arroyo Grande



Left to right: Kenneth Wayne Beene, John Peach, L.D. Perdue, Jim Gage, L. M. Branch

From: 1968 Cooperative Association  
 of Missionary Baptists of California Yearbook



Standing, left to right: Roy Reed, Ray Owen, Clifford Pack, Martin Canavan, Dewey Caves, Paul Magness, John Wilkins, L. M. Branch, Hoyt Chastain. Seated, left to right: James Wilkins, Bill Hoppert, Lester McAlister.

Photo on left from 1968 Yearbook.  
 Photo on right from 1966 Yearbook, page 3.





**The Cooperative Association of Missionary Baptist Churches of California  
Third Session, March 31 & April 1, 1953  
Held with the First Missionary Baptist Church—Ceres, California**



**THE ORIGINALS—No, this is not the name of a new musical group. Rather, this is a picture made recently at the California State Association. This group is made up of the people present at the 1976 meeting of the association who were also present at the original meeting of the association 25 years ago. This group has been around and helping to carry on the work of this state fellowship of Baptists in California for a quarter of a century.**

# Early California Baptist Historical Collage



Representing a collection of Booklets available throughout California.



**COASTAL COOPERATIVE  
Missionary Baptist Association**



*Initial Annual Meeting*

*First Missionary Baptist Church of Brentwood*

**NOVEMBER 21, 1961**

**THE INITIAL MEETING OF THE COASTAL  
COOPERATIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSN.**

April 8, 1961. 9:30 a.m. Hayward. California.

Messengers from Missionary Baptist Churches in the coastal area met with the Hayward Missionary Baptist Church for the purpose of organizing a new association.

Election of officers were as follows: Elder C. C. Middleton was elected moderator, Elder R. L. Crawford assistant. Elder O. D. Tilley was elected clerk, Elder Levi Stockton assistant.

Motion and second that we dispense with the sermon and take care of the business at hand. Motion carried. Motion and second that we adopt the articles of agreement as they appear in the 1961 minutes of the Northern California Landmark Missionary Baptist Association, with the exception of article No. 1 which has to do with the name of the association. Motion carried.

Motion and second that a committee be appointed to decide upon a name, for this association. Motion carried. The name recommended, and adopted by the Messenger body is: "Coastal Cooperative Missionary Baptist Association."

Motion and second that we adopt the doctrinal statement as found in the 1960 minutes of the Northern California Landmark Missionary Baptist Association. Motion carried. Motion and second that we adopt the order of business as is found in the 1960 minutes of the Northern California Landmark Missionary Baptist Association. There was an amendment to the motion that we not adopt article No. 5, which has to do with the election of officers next year. Amendment carried.

Recommendations for associational missionaries was called for by the moderator. The Antioch church recommended Bro. Noel Brown for Associational Missionary. After many questions being asked by the brethren present, and after Bro. Brown answered these questions to the satisfaction of everyone present, there was a motion and second that this messenger body highly recommend Bro. Brown to our churches for support. Motion carried.

Motion and second that we recommend to our churches that we pay Bro. Brown \$400.00 per month salary, plus \$100.00 per month living expense. Motion carried.

Motion and second that a 30 day waiting period be given those churches wishing to cooperate in this association. Motion carried.

The following churches gave invitations for the Messengers to meet with them next year: Eureka, Brentwood, and Martinez. The Messengers voted to go to Brentwood.

Motion and second that we recommend to our sister churches that we dispense with scheduled meeting of the Northern California Landmark Missionary Baptist Association to be held in Brentwood in November. Motion carried.

Nominations were called for, for someone to preach the doctrinal sermon at our annual meeting in November. Those nominated were: Bro. Connie Wright, Bro. Noel Brown, and Bro. Larry Reeves, Bro. Brown was elected, Bro. Reeves will be the alternate. Motion and second that we print the minutes of this meeting. Motion carried. Motion and second that mention be made in these minutes why the meeting in Brentwood of the Northern California Landmark Missionary Baptist Association was dismissed. Motion carried.

(Due to the fact that two local associations were organized April 8, 1961 out of the Northern California Landmark Missionary Baptist Association, also, considering the fact that there would be no business to take care of, it was decided that we would dismiss our scheduled meeting in November, of the Northern California Landmark Missionary Baptist Association)

Motion and second that we dispense with the statistical report in this minute and recommend that churches send money to help with the printing of the minutes. Motion carried. Motion and second that following the noon meal we have preaching. Motion carried. Bro. Noel Brown was elected to preach.

Motion and second that until Bro. Brown. moves on the field, we send our mission offerings for him to the Antioch Church. Motion carried.

Motion and second that Bro. Brown's salary be effective as of today. Motion carried. Motion and second that we adjourn until 1:30 p. m. Motion carried.

1:30 p. m. services were opened with singing: "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart." We were led in prayer by Bro. Clarence Denney.

Motion and second that we have just the business of this meeting printed in the minutes of the Northern California Landmark Missionary Baptist Association, which is now in the hands of the printer. Motion carried.

There were a total of 17 churches represented in this meeting. A total of \$40.50 came in for the printing of the minutes.

The moderator called Bro. Brown to the stand to deliver the message. Bro. Brown read for his text: Acts 27:25. Choosing for his subject: "The Greatest Need of The Churches Today." This was a great message.

Motion and second that we adjourn until Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Motion carried. We were dismissed in prayer by Bro. Dewey Mott.

From the personal files of Robert W. Cullifer