

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."

In This Issue: -

A. A. Harris—Bio
Jubilee Book.....page 2

A. A. Harris
Memorial.....page 3

In Memory of T. W. Bratcher
.....page 4

A Tribute to a Beloved Man of God
C. E. Hunt.....page 5

The Church and Her Officers
C. E. Hunt.....page 6

Photo Collection—Old State Brethren
Archives.....page 7

FMBC—Hughson Pastoral Photos
Archives.....page 8

HAPPY NEW YEAR

A Song of David

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in Unity. It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore." — Psalm 133:1—3



I am looking forward to attending the 60th Anniversary of the First Missionary Baptist Church in Hughson. The information for the date and time are on page 8.

You'll find a Photo Gallery of the pastor that have lead this church through the years on page 8.

Please pray for this church as they continue to prepare for this milestone in their history.



New Minister

On November 24, 2013 we baptized Marshall Cicero and licensed him to preach the Gospel. He has already been a blessing to our church and is growing in the Lord. We elected him to serve as our Youth Minister January 8th, during our monthly Business Meeting.

I am thrilled to be working with this young man in the ministry. Though saved for many years, he is new to our work. He has been attending Landmark for approximately 2 years. His desire to know New Testament truth gives this pastor great pleasure and I covet your prayers as we labor together in the Lord's work.

50th Year—Landmark Jubilee—1931—1981
California State Missionary Baptist Association



ELD. ARTHUR A. HARRIS

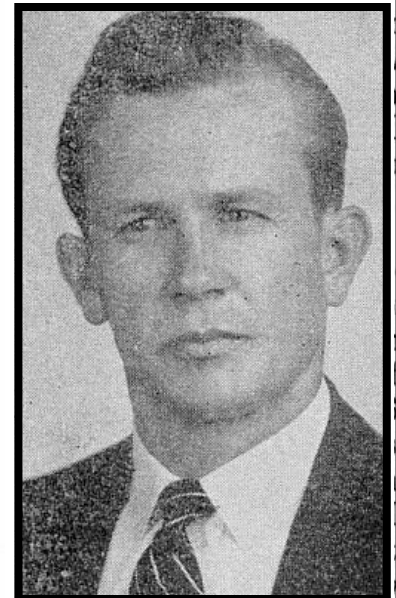
He has pastored at several churches listed as follows: Concord MBC 4-44 to 8-44; Brentwood MBC 9-44 to 2-45; San Jose MBC 8-46 to 5-48; Stockton Eastside MBC 6-48 to 12-49; Friendship MBC 12-49 to 11-50; LaHabra MBC 11-50 to 3-54; Eastside MBC 3-54 to 10-56; Brewster, WA MBC 10-56 to 6-60; Wenatchee, WA MBC 6-60 to 6-68; Wenton MBC 6-68 to 11-69; Salinas Landmark MBC 11-69 to 7-78.

Elder Harris has done missionary work in San Jose, CA in 1946, and MBC, Antioch, CA. He was the author of Harris-Barr Debate; Alien Baptism; Baptism Landmark; Editor, Western Baptist; and Baptist Branch. Elder Harris has held 75 revivals and 8 debates. He has in religious studies a "Bachelor of Arts," and "Bachelor of Theology." He was Moderator for the State and Southern Dist. Associations, and Clerk for the Northern Dist. Association. He was involved in building programs, in Eastside, Stockton, CA in 1949, Friendship in 1949 to 1950, San Jose, CA in 1947, Eastside, Stockton, CA 1955 to 1956, and in Wenatchee Eastside in 1962.

Elder Arthur A. Harris was saved May 10, 1938 in a bean field outside of Salinas, CA. He was baptized May 18, 1938 by the Hebron Heights MBC of Salinas, CA. Elder Bill Dowell performed the baptism.

Elder Harris was called to the ministry Nov. 22, 1943 in Riverbank, CA at the Northern Dist. Association. He was ordained April 16, 1944 by the First MBC of Antioch, CA.

Present on the ordination council were: Elder John Cooper, Eld. Luther Cooper, Eld. R.Y. Blalock, L.D. Foreman, Victor Salyer, T.E. Griffith, Dan Hudson, J.W. Scott, Troy Mize, G.W. Burnett, H.C. Redmond, Joel Willingham, C.C. Middleton, Gomer Tillman, and Deacons C.L. Hunt and A.L. Ross.



A. A. Harris
Archive Image

Portion of page 85

"A Prince and a great man Fallen this day..."

In Loving Memory
of
Arthur Alanzo Harris
June 19, 1914 - November 16, 1989

To the right is a likeness of my brother-in-law, whom I called Art. Brother Art was saved in a bean field in Salinas, California, in 1938. He was baptized by the Hebron Heights Missionary Baptist Church in Salinas, California "Now called Touf & Garner M.B.C."

Bro. Art was ordained to the office of Deacon by the Antioch M.B.C. of Antioch, Ca., and then on Thanksgiving Day 1943 in an Associational meeting in Riverbank, Ca. He, Bro. Roy Reed, and Bro. Lester McCalister announced their call to the ministry.

It is so hard to write about a man who became a legend in his own time. He was loved and respected by so many for the works sake and his stand for Jesus and His church. Yet, despised by some for the very same reasons. He started his life for the Lord in what is now known as "The Old work in California" and he went to Glory standing in the same work, and for the same principles. We fussed, argued, debated and grousched with one another. Yet, we were brothers and when Principles were at stake, we brothers-in-law stood together. My heart is empty, His seat is empty and I shall have to stand without the support that I had grown accustomed to for 43 years.

Bro. Art conducted several Revival meetings where I was pastor and I conducted some for him. Yet I never met a man who loved the Lord, His Cause and Lost Sinners more than Eld. Arthur A. Harris. He would walk the aisles, with tears streaming down his face, literally begging lost people to come to Christ before it was forever to late. At the same time I have seen him get such a vision of the Crucified One whom he was preaching about and the death He died that in the midst of his preaching he would shout and sinners would cry out. We Baptist shall miss such a man. They don't grow on trees!

While in Salinas, Bro. Harris met and married Sis. Irene Cooper, my wife's older sister and the daughter of Missionary Eld. John Cooper and wife Effie. Through the years these two have grown and stood together, I was privileged to attend their Golden Anniversery in 1988. During their years together the Lord blessed them with five children. Sis. Connie Lawless, wife of Pastor Lane Lawless in Tracy, Ca.; Eld. DeWayne Harris, Pastor of the Alisal Baptist Church in Salinas, Ca.; Esther Blackwell, wife of Tom Blackwell, Song Leader for Landmark church in Salinas, Ca.; Cynthis Browning, wife of Vernon Browning of Tracy M.B.C.; and Paula Sumner.

Bro. Harris' first pastorate was Assistant to Eld. R.V. Blalock in Concord, Ca. Then in 1945 he accepted the call as the first pastor of the Brentwood, M.B.C. While pastor he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served from February 7, 1945 to June 4, 1946, rising to the rank of Corporal.

Upon being released from the Army, Bro. Harris went on the mission field and organized the First Missionary Baptist Church in San Jose, Ca. in September 1946 and served as pastor to May 1948. He accepted the call of the Eastside M.B.C. in Stockton in May of 1948 and served until called by Friendship M.B.C. of Sacramento, December 1949, and served that church until accepting a call from the La Habra church in November 1950 and served there until February 1954.

Eastside of Stockton called him back as pastor in April 1954 and he served them until being called by Brewster, Wash., in October 1956 and served there until August 1958. He was called by the Eastside M.B.C. of Wenatchee, Wash., September 6, 1959 and served there until June 9, 1968.

While serving in Washington he was instrumental in organizing the Washington State Association. He left Wenatchee because the Winton M.B.C. in California called him as pastor in June 1968 and he served there and taught in Airport M.B.C. School much of that time until he was called by Salinas Landmark M.B.C. in November 1969 and served there until he resigned in July of 1978. He thought he had retired but Pedley M.B.C. called and he accepted in August 1980 and served there until August 1981 at which time the Alisal Baptist Church of Salinas called him as Assistant Pastor to his son, Bro. DeWayne and he was serving in that capacity when the Lord called him home. I suppose I knew this old Soldier of the Cross better than any other man alive, being related by marriage and the Blood of



Jesus. Having served as his moderator in many of his debates with the Church of Christ people and observing him as he debated Bro. Vernon Barr from Dallas, Texas. And published it in a book which Bro. Harris told me that "not one of Bro. Barr's brethren would buy". I would think that this would tell you who won in that contest. But, now that they both are over there, perhaps they can agree.

This work owes a debt of gratitude to that great man AND HE WAS GREAT! For had it not been that he and a few more had the Grace to stand against overwhelming odds in 1951 there very well would be no work like you enjoy now in California. So tonight as I sit at this typewriter and tears dim my eyes and I recall "precious" memories I thank God for A.A. Harris and the Grace that God gave him to stand.

November 16, 1989, at about 8:00 a.m. our time the Captain of the Lord's Host came silently down and waited for this Joshua to put his foot in the great swelling Jordan. By faith I see the waters pile up and Art's face as he saw Him waiting to lead into the promised land and to Victory He has promised to all His faithful.

Oh what a send off we gave this great warrior. Over 300 brethren crowded into Landmark church. His son did a superb job. God just kept giving grace on top of multiplied grace. His son-in-law Bro. Lawless did the obituary. His daughters sang, his grand-children sang. I prayed. Eld. Don Ross and I prayed. His casket was borne by eight of his younger preacher brethren. At the cemetery, America the Beautiful was rendered along with that sad sounding taps. Yes, his light is out here but by faith I see a bright star in the heavens tonight.

Bro. DeWayne did an outstanding job. God just gave more grace as we celebrated Art's promotion to heaven, and celebrate we did. No one there has ever seen anything like it. And everybody envied Bro. Art before it was over. As one said at the Cemetery. "If Bro. Harris could have been here, he would have approved." To which I say Amen and Amen again.

At the conclusion of the cemetery services Deacon Bill Harris of Oroville church led us in singing "Amazing Grace". We who were there will never hear nor sing it as good until THAT Day.

In concluding this article, I thank God for Bro. Art and that I got to know him and fellowship with him. I thank God for his dear wife Irene who has stood so faithfully by him through the years, drug from pillar to post, not enough of the right things to eat at times. Sleeping in lofts and on floors, yet through it all she bravely continued on. May God bless you Irene and continue to give the Grace you had in the services.

One post script, Bro. Harris was laid to rest November 1989, and on November 24, 1989, 46 years from the day Art announced his heavenly calling, Irene, the children, and most of the grandchildren were in El Nido for the 49th session of the Northern Missionary Baptist Association. I know my Brother, My Friend; He would have liked that! Until He calls, may you and I follow in the steps of faithfulness.

Your Brother, Richard A. Harless, I

The MISSIONARY BAPTIST

"YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD" MATT. 5:14

Volume 3 No. 8

EL NIDO, CALIFORNIA

September 1984 Issue



In Loving Memory of Elder T.W. Bratcher

Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of one of His Saints. Rejoicing for the Hosts of Heaven and the one gone on to be with Him, but sadly missed by friends and loved ones left behind.

Missionary Baptists of California especially, have suffered a great loss in the death of Elder T.W. Bratcher, born Aug. 18, 1930 at Wetumka, Okla. and entered into rest Aug. 16, 1984 at the age of 53 years in Martinez, CA. Brother Bratcher was saved in San Pablo, CA Sept. 6, 1959 and baptized by the authority of Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of San Pablo Sept. 13, 1959. He announced his call to the ministry in 1962 and was ordained April 3, 1970 by The Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of San Pablo. Besides working in various Missions Bro. Bratcher pastored the Unity Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Stockton, CA for nine years and was pastor of the Airport MBC of Modesto when the Lord called him home.

No greater tribute could have been paid to him by his brethren as 400-500 thronged into his memorial services Monday, Aug. 20, 1984 the largest services ever held at Lakewood Memorial Park.

The State Youth Rally

La Habra, CA Aug. 20-22

The theme this Christ" Rom. 8: we are more than who loved us so.

The young pe seminars, preaching and specialis that even though we live in to be partakers of for Christ.

Tuesday after old participated activities were and volleyball South). We all en ship.

The new offic ident John Hugl Weathers; secr sistant secretary Susan Crabtree; brook; song lead sistant Bret Lawle

There was no We should be thi this.

I want to pers Habra Church fo Youth Rally. You good planning an a fantastic job.

Doctrinal

THIR

In this century Rome, hence the troversy over alie tion of the church post apostolic fa of this century Because of the imp that we have alrea chapter, we take t by the way of empl

"Heretics have discipline, and th not one with ours the same; a bap not duly, they have

The church plan unit against alien A.D. Eusibius, bod

Neander, in spe church at this time "But here again

Stephanus, who instigated by the spirit of ecclesiastical arrogance, domination, and zeal, without knowledge, attached to this point of dispute a paramount im-

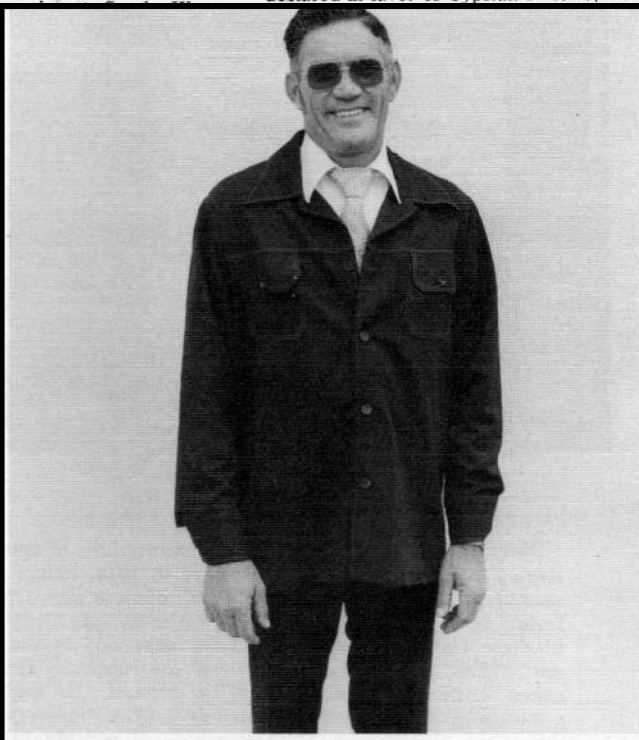
50th Year—Landmark Jubilee—1931—1981 California State Missionary Baptist Association Page 90

Elder Thelmar W. Bratcher was saved on 18th and Broadway in San Pablo, CA on September 6, 1959. He was then baptized September 13, 1959 by the Landmark MBC San Pablo, CA. Elder Floyd Ingram performed the baptism.

In 1962 Elder Bratcher was called to the ministry while at the same place he was born again. He was ordained April 3, 1970 by the Landmark MBC of San Pablo.

Present at the ordination council were: Eld. Ben Palmer-Moderator; Eld. Rick Purdue-Clerk.

He has worked with Bro. Ashly White in Hayward and in Pleasanton on missionary work. He also pastored the Unity Landmark MBC of Stockton from 1970 till 1979.



ELDER THELMAR W. BRATCHER



BELOVED BROTHER, ELDER C.E. HUNT

Brother Hunt was born Charles Enoch Hunt to Samuel J. Hunt and Nancy Holder in Morganville, Kentucky, January 23, 1888, in the same house his father was born. He was the second son of a family of eight (five sisters and two brothers). He pastored churches until the age of 80, edited the Missionary Baptist Paper until the age of 76, taught Bible classes and was asked to fill the pulpit for various churches in the area until the age of 90.

He never turned down an invitation to preach. In 1907 when he was 19, he eloped with Maude Hancock who was 16 to Chandler, Oklahoma in his buggy. Charles and Maude were married 69 years. To this union four children were born, Verdie Lee, Nora Frances, Charles Alfred and George Enoch. In 1913, he went to work for the Southern Pacific Railroad as a car inspector in order to support his family, staying with that employment for 25 years, he put himself through high school, earned his Doctor of Divinity degree from the "Missionary Baptist Institute," Little Rock, Arkansas. When he was transferred to the small town of Mt. Shasta and organized the First Missionary Baptist Church there.

His memory of volumes of scripture enhanced his ministry, allowing him to quote entire passages. Sometimes a verse or two of an old Hymn was sung to emphasize a point in his sermon.

(excerpt from The Missionary Baptist Paper, March 1980 issue; written by Thaila, Karen, and Edwin, His grandchildren.)

Tribute to A Beloved Man Of God

"Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?" II Sam 3:38.

As Elder C.E. Hunt's pastor for the past several years it is fitting that I write a brief tribute to his faithfulness to the cause of Christ.

During the years that I have privileged to be his pastor we spent many hours together. Many of them traveling up and down the state to various meetings. I learned to love and respect him as a man and for the principles he stood for. I was always encouraged during the preaching service by his presence and his amens. I knew that he understood what I was preaching about. I miss him today and his absence will be felt for a long time to come.

Brother Hunt's passing marks the end of an era. He out lived so far as I know, those of his generation who were his associates in the ministry. I am thinking of brethren like Eld. Claude Moore, Eld Tiz Griffith, Eld John Cooper, Eld Lee Dowdle, Eld R.Y. Blalock, and of course others whom I may not know about.

Brother Hunt's private life as well as his ministerial life was an example as to what God's ministers should be. He was a man of the highest integrity, his word was as good as his bond; his moral character was the epitome of personal moral purity. Brother Hunt had a great compassion for lost men and women with a desire to see them saved. His live the Lord's church was such that he made many sacrifices for the cause of the Lord during his lifetime. He loved to preach, and hear preaching about the church, the Bride of Christ, etc.

As to the office of the pastor, Brother Hunt lent dignity to it. His life was in harmony with the statement of the apostle Paul when he said, "I magnify mine office". He was always, at all times "the preacher". Yet he enjoyed talking about the common things of life. He had a great sense of humor. He like to laugh at something that was funny and enjoyed life.

Another outstanding attribute to Brother Hunt was his sweet and kind spirit. He was able to disagree with you and still love you and respect your privilege to disagree with him. He and I never had an argument over something that we did not totally agree on. During all the years that I knew him he never said an unkind word or treated me with disrespect.

Brother Hunt's ministry was a blessing to many, many people. Perhaps only eternity will reveal the great number of those whose lives he blessed. He loved to preach and was faithful to his "Calling" to the end. There can be no doubt in the mind of any who knew him as to his call to the ministry. May God bless his memory and his life as an example of what a God-called minister should be. He has gone to join the ranks of other blood bought, redeemed children of God. Thank God the parting is not permanent. We shall one day be united again with those saints who have gone on before us.

Elder Leonard Buttram.

(copied from the Missionary Baptist paper; March 1980 issue.)

THE CHURCH AND HER OFFICERS

The church is a called out. group of baptized believers. She may be a church and have no officers. Jesus set the first officers in the Chs. Luke 6:12, 13; 1 Cor. 12:12, 18, when he ordained them as apostles. Acts 1:26 covers the election of a pastor. A pastor is an overseer. 1 Tim. 3:1; Titus 1:7; Acts 1:20; 20:28; Phil. 1:1; 1 Pet.2:25; 5:2; The word is OVERSEER.

N. T. DEACONS: Acts 6,1-4; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 5:8; 12, 13. The word deacon means ministry in material things.

ELDERS OR PREACHERS IN THE CHURCH: Acts 11:30; 14:23; 20:17; 1 Tim,5:17; Tit.1:5; Heb. 13:7; Jas.5:14; 1 Pet. 5:1, 2; 2 Jno;1; 3 Jn. 1

The first church had a treasurer. John 12 6; 13:29.

The first church had a clerk, Luke 1:1.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE; There are but three subjects of church discipline.

1. Differences between brethren, Matt'18:15-18. (1) try to settle it between themselves, (2) take a witness or two, (3) take it to the CH.

2. Sins of abomination, 1 Cor.5:1-13; 6:1-3; 6:9, 10; Gal. 5:19- 21; 2 Thes. 3:6.

3. Heresy: Rom.16:17; 1 Cor.11:19; Gal. 5:11; 6:12,13; Titus 3:10; 1 Jon. 2:18-22; 2 Jon. 7; 1 Tim.4:1; 2 Tim. 2:17, 18; 2 Pet. 2:1; 3:3-7; Jude 18; Matt.7:15; 24:24.

CHURCH A DEMOCRACY: (1) In receiving members, Acts 10:46-48; Ron 14:1; (2), In discipline: Neither preachers, pastors nor deacons discipline churches. Each church did her own disciplining. 1 Cor.5; 2 Cor. 2:5-7, 8. (3) Calling her own pastors: Acts 1:20-26, (4) Each church is sovereign in herself. Matt.20:25,26; 28:18,19,20. Is authorized by Jesus. Matt. 16:19; 18:18.

HOW THE EARLY CHURCH DID MISSION WORK

THE CHURCH ONLY SENT OUT MISSIONARIES during New Testament days. Acts 13:1-3; 2 Cor.8:19-23; Rev.1:20, Angel meant messenger, pastor of the church. Acts 14:27, No hint in the New Testament of a body over a local church. They had church councils about doctrinal matters Acts 15:2; Gal. 2:9, Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16: 19; 2 Cor. 11: 6; Phil. 4:15, show salutations of various churches to others from whom Paul received help to carry on his mission endeavors. There is of an instance of anything like an association doing business for the churches.

HOW EARLY CHURCHES SUPPORTED THEMSELVES

1. By collections. 1 Cor. 16:1, 2. The word is "logiai" and means a stated sum. 2. By stewardship. Acts 5th, & 6th, Chs. 3. By faithfulness, Luke 16:9-12, 1 Cor. 9:7-14, 2 Cor,8:12,13,, every one had a responsibility, but none were to be burdened. 2 Cor. 9:13, shows the method, 4. by systematic giving, each first day of the week, 1 Cor.16:2, as the Lord prospered them.

BAPTIST BACK TO JOHN THE BAPTIST Eph. 3:21.

Matt 16:18, Eph. 3:21 and Rev. 12 teach us that the church Jesus built would stand till he returns for her, to go and be with him, John 14.1-5. John the Baptist baptized John the Beloved or Revelator whom Jesus set in the church, Matt.4:21, John the Beloved baptized Polycarp, Dec. 95 A. D. .See Neander's Church History, p. 285. Polycarp Organized the Partus church at the foot of the Tiber, A. D. 150. Cyrus' Commentary of Antiquity, p. 924. Tertullan, a preacher from Turan church organized Turan church, Bing Joy, Africa, A. D. 237. Armitage's Church History; p. 182. Tertullan, a preacher from Turan church, in Italy, organized the Pontifossi church, at the foot of the Alps in France, A. D. 398 Nowlin's Church History, Vol. 2, p. 318. Adromicus, a preacher from Pontifossi church organized Darethea church, A. D. 671, Lambert's Church History, p. 47. Archer, a preacher from Darethea church, organized Timto church A. D. 738, Mosheim's History, Vol. 2, p. 394, Balcolao, a preacher from Timto church Asia Minor, organized Lima Piedmont church: A. D. 812, Neander's Church History, V. 2, p. 329. Aaron Arlington, a preacher from Lima Piedmont church. organized. Hill--Cliff church, A. D. 937. Alex Munster's Israel of the Alps, p. 39. H. Roller, a preacher from Hillecliff Church, Wales, England, The Penepek Church of Pennsylvania came from Wales in a body in 1701. J. W. Jetter, a preacher from Philadelphia Association organized the Baptist church at Dyersburg, Tennessee,. Thus we have a direct line of succession of Baptist churches from Jesus to America, or from America back to the baptism which John brought from heaven. Matt.21:25.

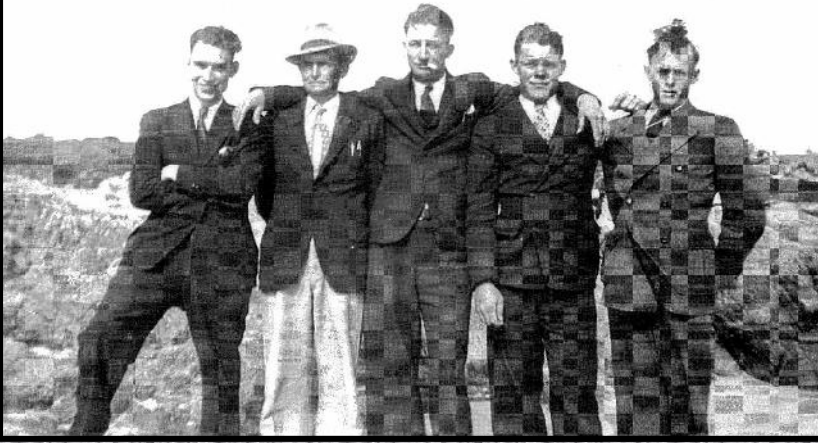
C. E. Hunt

Note: Unfortunately I neglected to write the source of this article.

I believe it was printed in the California Missionary Baptist while Hunt was editor.

**~ From The Archives ~
Photo Collection—Old State Brethren**

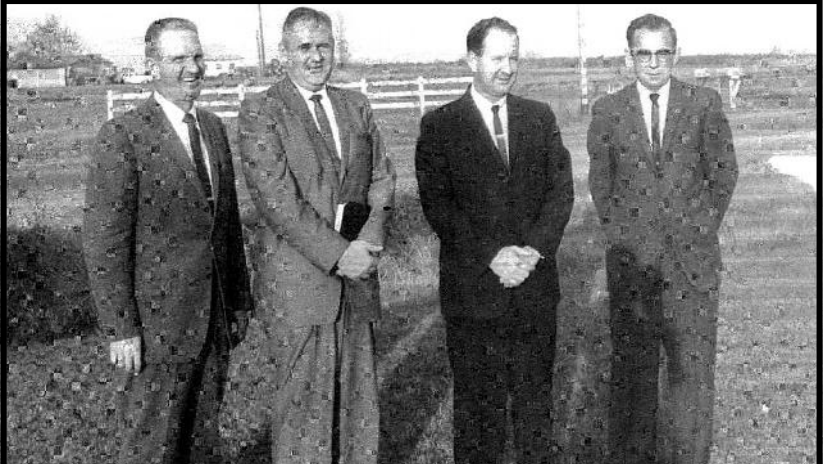
Left to Right: Harold Kish, John Cooper, Bob Samuels, Floyd Cooper, and Hersel Cooper



L—R: James Taylor, Art Harris, Merton Canfield, and Faye Wersky



L—R: Leonard Buttram, Albert Runyan, Tim Westbrook, and Merton Canfield.



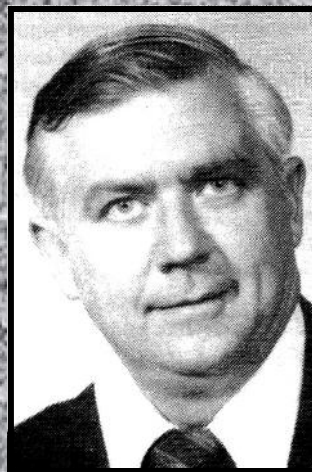
L—R: James Taylor, Art Tabor, Richard Harless, James Taylor, and Leonard Buttram.



Don R. Jones



Albert Runyan



Dwayne Hodges



W. W. Ames

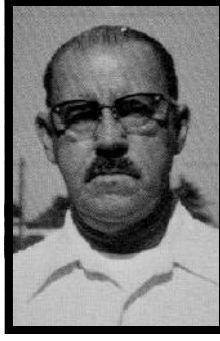
The First Missionary Baptist Church—Hughson
List of Pastors: 1954 to 2014



Art Tabor
1954



Ray Whitely
1954 - 56



Homer Browning
1956 - 57

John White
1958 - 59



Clyde Murphy
1959



Julian Anderson
1960—68
1970—77

Carl Denham
1968



Arlan Bevard
1977 - 78



Gordon Richwine
1978—83
1987—92



Joel Swofford
1984



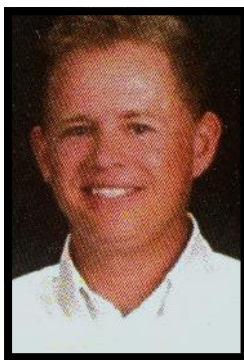
David Lopiccolo
1985



Jim Cain
1986



Bill Whala
1993 - 02



Richard Harless III
2002 to 2006



Ron Cook
2007 to present



Ron & Melissa Cook

**60
Years
Of
Service
To
The
Lord**

**From Facebook—Posted on The California State Missionary Baptist Association Page
 December 30, 2013**

From [Pastor Ron Cook](#)~ Hughson MBC

Please remember to save the date. Hughson Missionary Baptist Church

60th. Anniversary—February 22nd at 10:00 AM.

This is for everyone Old State and Co-Op. We would love to have as many people as our building can hold. Come and hear the history plus bring your history as part of this wonderful church. If you have not received a flyer that says "save the date" please let us know for we had an mailing issue.