

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: -

Camping on the Border

T. J. Simmons.....page 2

Will a Sinner Burn Eternally in Hell

H. R. Cole.....page 3

Sermons on Facebook

Andrew McClung.....page 4

KJV Lecture Photos

Cullifer Files.....page 5

Associated Work In California

.....page 6

Frank Preston Photos

Cullifer Files.....page 7

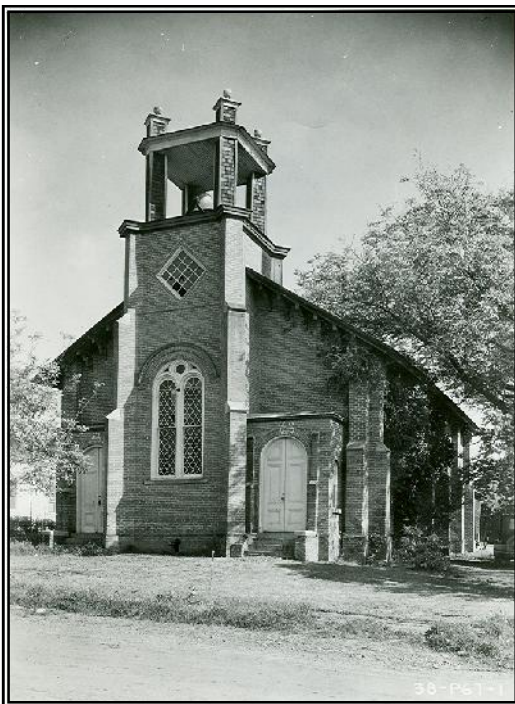
1995 California Brethren

at ABA Meetingpage 8

Bell Tower Restoration Project in Folsom



Built by Folsom Methodists 1860—Photo From Fall 1908



Historic American Building
Survey Photo

HABS, No. Cal-1359—March 25, 1934

Library Of Congress



Bell Purchased by the Ladies
Aid Society Spring 1907

Currently owned by the
Journey Church
450 Blue Ravine Road
Folsom, CA

Note: On November 4, 2013
Journey Church agreed to
return the Bell for historical
restoration Purposes.



Recent photo of the
Historic Landmark Church
Landmark Baptist Church
609 Figueroa Street
Folsom, CA 95630

Robert W. Cullifer, Pastor
916.718-9770

**Seismic Retrofitting will be necessary
to restore the Tower & Bell
To Its 1907 Appearance.**

From the Archives

The California Missionary Baptist

June 15, 1949—Vol. 10—No. 2

Thomas Jefferson Simmons

Camping on The Border

BY T. J. SIMMONS

"Though being dead yet speaketh." In some files I found these thoughts presented by my first Bible teacher.

"God's people who camp on the border lose all the joys of salvation. There is a border line. God wants us to cross the border before camping. We are to turn our backs to the world. He who loves the world will camp on the world's side of the border. For want of the love of God; he can't say goodbye to the world if he camps on the border. He has no joy; he has no power in Christ, because he has camped on the devil's territory. To move the man is a task, as he feels that he is on the border of salvation. As the border has so many campers that never will cross, he has an abundance of company of those who have never tasted of the fruit on God's side of the border.

The amusements and heresies on Satan's side of the border, are like the leek and garlick of Egypt to Israel, who thought it too much of a task to cross the border and enjoy the fruits of God's **RIGHT-BOUSNESS** in the land flowing with milk and honey. They died on Satan's side.

Those who have passed from death unto life cross the border before camping. The devil cannot occupy God's side of the border, as the glory in the soul and peace of mind on God's side interferes with the devil's business, and disturbs his program.

They on the devil's side of the border, will quickly surround a man who starts to the border line, to prevent him crossing. They give him the right hand of fellowship without his putting his trust in Christ as Saviour; they give him Satan's baptism, and lead him into business success and popularity, in society that he will never attain unto if he crosses over on God's side of the border. All that Satan requires is his tithes and offerings, and he can enjoy the pleasures of the world, being as religious as he wants to practicing heretical religion. Gal. 5:20. Heresy is Satanic.

If we cross the border line our back is to the border, and our face to the glory of God; and the world will persecute God's people when they turn their backs on them at the crossing of the border, into God's territory. If man is ever useful, it will be when he turns his back on the world. We cannot drag the world across the border, any more than Israel could take the leek and garlick of Egypt into Canaan. Many people have camped too soon after conviction. A man with full salvation will seek to cross the border quickly, like Joshua and Caleb, they went to en-

joy the fruits of God's side of the border. Like Jesus when he divorced Israel at his baptism, he never taught the law, he had crossed the border, and magnified grace. Men made institutions called churches camp near the border, but never cross. Their iniquity will not permit their crossing. Matt. 7:21-23.

Cropped from photo courtesy
of Landmark MBC—
Granite Bay



"Elder T. J. Simmons Dead." Elder Thomas Jefferson Simmons, the Baptist war-horse of the Pacific coast, has gone to his reward. He was born near St. Louis, Mo. April 14, 1851. Moved with his parents to the Pacific coast when he was about 8 years old. He was married to Miss Susan Brown, also a native of Missouri, at the age of twenty-five, and is the father of nine children. His wife died in 1893. Brother Simmons was saved at the age of twenty-nine under the influence of the United Brethren but refused to join that faith because they could not give Biblical authority to administer the ordinance of Baptism. Though his parents were Baptists, he disliked the Baptists because of their narrowness in doctrine. But on being shown by the pastor that Baptists had Biblical authority to baptize, he joined the Baptist Church and begun at once to preach. After he had been preaching about two years, having organized a small church which then had twenty-four members, there came a very smart Adventist preacher asking him some questions that he could not answer, and the Adventist took his congregation and organized an Adventist church. One man out of twenty-four remained with Brother Simmons, saying, that he was a young man, and that he could not answer was no evidence that he was wrong. Brother Simmons wrote J. R. Graves and D. B. Ray, and got their works and prepared himself. He met Adventist preacher in debate two years later, and proved himself famous. From that time he began to be known as a debater, and was called upon to defend the faith against Campbellites, Mormons, Adventists, and any other who would debate. He was a great evangelist and builder; built churches all over the Pacific coast country, baptized hundreds, and trained many young men to preach. When I was studying for the ministry, he came to Roseville, California, which was a blessing from heaven to me, as I was with him three to six hours a day studying the Bible, and he taught me to preach, how to make an argument in debate, and how to appear before the audience. In fact he gave me a thorough ministerial training; we being together for over three years. He called me his baby preacher. He was uneducated literally, but in the Bible he was a scholar. I have heard him talk with men who had the D. D., L. L. D. degree, men who were as old in years, and in the ministry as he, yet in Bible knowledge they were no match for him. Elder J. T. Moore says of him: "T. S. Simmons has been worth more to the Baptist cause than any man that has ever lived on the Pacific coast." Some enjoyed calling him radical, but it is much easier to call a man radical, than it is to answer his arguments. This is why so many are always ready to call a man radical if he advances truth that they know nothing about. Brother Simmons died July 16, in the home of his daughter, Mrs. Pearl McClane, at Riddle, Oregon. He had informed his daughter and son, Earl, that he wanted me to preach his funeral, and as soon as they had arrangements made, I was notified. His funeral was conducted in the Convention Baptist church house in Riddle, Oregon, and his body was laid to rest in the Myrtle Creek cemetery. The Convention Baptists never fought a man harder than they fought T. J. Simmons, and no doubt they will rejoice to read of his death. He was glad to boast of fighting the Convention all his ministerial life, and it was hard for him to forgive a man for working with the Convention, even though he came out from them and denounced the system. He was not perfect, but a great reward awaits him in glory for his faithful services in God's kingdom." Elder C. E. Hunt.

The Baptist and Commoner - Pacific Coast Department, page 10 - August 15, 1928

From History of Landmark Baptists of California Volume 1—Calhac.org

From the Archives

The Baptist Sentinel

Vol. 1-No. 6—May 10, 1956

THE BAPTIST SENTINEL

"PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF LANDMARK BAPTISTS IN CALIFORNIA"

Vol. 1 No. 6

Armona Calif.

May 10, 1956

Page 4

THE BAPTIST SENTINEL

May 10, 1956

WILL A SINNER BURN ETERNALLY IN HELL ?

I was handed an article recently with a heading similar to this one, and in this article the writer denied such a thing was possible. He began his article by condemning some preacher for displaying a picture of hell and driving a business man forever away from church. Seemingly in his estimation this preacher had committed a great sin; I wonder what his opinion of Jesus Christ is, for Christ paints a very vivid picture of hell in Luke 16: 19-31. Here we find two men who died. Many will say this is just a parable. If it is a parable, then as all other parables it must teach one central thought or lesson. A parable is either comparative or representative. In this lesson Jesus is teaching the comparison of the saved and the wicked, and both the beggar and the rich man are representatives of mankind; the beggar of the saved and the rich man of the wicked and unsaved. If hell or "hades" means the grave as the writer of the above mentioned article says it does, how do we account for the rich man having use of his faculties and senses? He saw, V. 23; He cried, V. 24; He felt, "Tormented in this flame" V. 24; He remembered, "the things of his lifetime", "His family that he had left" V. 25-28. The Lord Jesus Christ spoke more times of hell, and eternal torment than any of the other writers, (Matt. 5:22, 29-30; Matt. 10:28; 18:9; 23:15,33; Mark 9:43, 45-47; Lk. 12:5, and others.

Another reason this man gave for not believing in an eternal hell was because God is a God of love and could not stand to see anyone tormented forever and ever. He used as an illustration an incident in his own life of a little puppy that he loved very much and when the puppy became ill and he had to destroy it, of how it hurt him to do so. Making a comparison of this and God's dealing with sinners whom he loves. This is hardly a fair comparison, so let's follow it just a little further. Supposing this puppy had lived and the man had cared for him and lavished on him all the tenderness he was capable of, then after the puppy became a grown dog having had every opportunity and incentive to be an obedient servant to his master,

should suddenly and without provocation turn on this man's only child and rend his body to pieces and kill him, and after this continue to be a snarling disobedient beast, would this man have still felt obligated to feel hurt at the destruction of this animal or would his righteous indignation have excused his conscience of any qualms in the matter? Romans 2:4-8.

Truly God is a God of love but that love will one day turn to wrath, and that wrath will be just as great as His love. "The wrath of God abideth on those who believe not on His Son"- Jn. 3:36. "The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness"- Romans 1:18. For a more complete picture of the wrath of God read Rev. 16: Here we find wrath without mixture of mercy, being poured out upon the earth.

God is also a God of vengeance: "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord". Romans 12:19.

Now comes the important question at hand; Is the punishment of the wicked eternal or is it just annihilation?

The Greek word for eternal is AIONIOS-; it is the word used for eternal life and eternal torment or destruction. The word "AIONIOS" comes from the root word "AION" which means "to ages of ages" and is so used in Heb. 1:8 concerning the duration of the throne of God. Also in Rev. 14:11 concerning the torment of those who worship the beast. So, their torment is to last as long as the throne of God.

Those that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, shall be punished with an everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the Glory of His power. 2 Thess. 1:8-9. Here we find the word "AIONIOS" again.

If we deny the eternity of hell we must of necessity deny the eternity of God, the righteous, and of heaven.

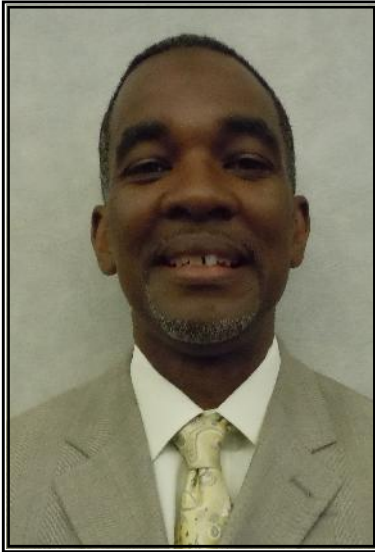
H. R. Cole
Rt. 2 Box 368
Dinuba Calif.

CENTRAL VALLEY

District Ladies' Auxillary meets with the Easton Church the second Friday in June.

Plan to attend this all day meeting of the representatives of our Ladies' work.

McClung Sermons Posted on Facebook



Andrew McClung

Sunday Message 2/16/14-

Getting Love Right- 1Cor. 13-

It is important in life to get love right. Love is not an idea but an action, however it is an action that must be performed right. When love is performed correctly self image is lifted, families become stronger and churches grow. You can think you are involved in love, but if it is not sourced in God and performed by his instructions it will turn out to be empty and unprofitable. God is spirit, humans are sensual (we operate through senses) we feel love by a soft Touch, we need to Hear loving words, we need to See loving gestures, We enjoy Smelling things that represent love (flowers, roses), we Taste love through good cooking:) knowing this, God has designed that the right love come from a spiritual source which is through His word. 1Cor. 13- describes how God's people are to display his love in a human way, so everyone can experience His love, which is the right kind, 4 descriptions of the right kind of Love:

1. Love is Mature-vs.11- I put away childish things- it takes a mature person to express the right kind of love, Spiritually mature- to display God's love you have to be a growing Christian. Childishness hinders true love. You can have knowledge, skill, possessions, elegance and if you don't have mature love, your actions of love will be empty. Amen!
2. Love is Delicate-vs.4- generally pleasant not bullish- God's love has the ability to not take things personal, it looks at the root cause, not the surface reaction. Jesus acted with delicacy even as he was being crucified, he knew the people did it because of Sin, He did not impose His will or make threats. If you love don't make threats or try to control a person, deescalate in intense situations not escalate.
3. Love is Dignified vs.5,6- God 's love acts dignified (quality or state of being worthy, honored or esteemed) love when acted out right, causes others to feel esteemed, honorable, worthy) Jesus does that for his creatures, while we were yet enemies, He died for us. You are important to The Lord, enough that He died for you because he thinks you are worthy of being with Him. However Sin is never desirable to God, if you have to sin to show love it is not right. Because love does not behave unseemly (unnatural, inappropriate) it does not act out of line with what God designed (fornication, uncleanness, vile affection, women changing natural use to that which is against nature and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their Lust one toward another, men with men working that which is unseemly (Romans 1:26,27) is not what God designed and does not dignify love.
4. Love is Durable- v.7- God's love bears up under things that maybe difficult, unbelievable or looks hopeless. This strength can only come from God, it is supernatural! Durability can only come from God in your life as your a Savior and loving through His love and loving Him with all your heart, soul, mind and Strength.

Let's Get Love Right.

Sunday Message 2/9/14-

Why We Get Love Wrong- 1John 4-

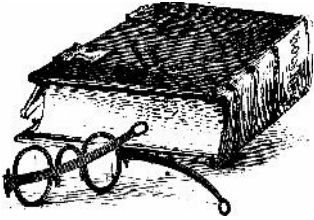
This month is known for a day that is set aside for love. God's people and the Lord's church are commanded to operate through love (for The Lord) everyday. One day of love is not sufficient to qualify in knowing how to love. Love is not an option in life, the cosmos (world) needs love, God knowing this, sent his son Jesus Christ into the world so that all mankind has the chance to experience love (John 3:16). However we so often get true love wrong as humans, natural love hinders our relationship with God because we relate to him according to the natural standards of love which can be summed up by, what have you done for me lately?, what can you do for me? or if you do for me I can love you. God's love in you is greater than any love known or that can be expressed by man because if you know Jesus, greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. How We Get Love Wrong....

[Continued on page 5]

1. We look to the Wrong Source- 1John 4:8- God is Love- True love is not man, it is God, (Eros, Phileo are in man naturally) Agape is not in man unless Jesus is his Savior. Man cannot express true love without having God in him. Cupid is not love, God is!
2. We operate through the wrong Spirit- 1John 4:1-6- try every spirit - the Holy Spirit produces love, not your spirit. Evidence of the Holy Spirit in you is that you love Jesus and then others as yourself. We are not to love through every rationale or feeling that influences, we are to love thru the Spirit of God.
3. We have the wrong State of love-1John 4:10- Herein is love- Herein denotes that love is in fixed position-God's love does not change because of people or situations. God is immutable-He changes not- True loves does not change, because it is a deliberate choice, without assignable cause for the person or object only that which is in the nature of God. true love does not change God's law (disobey God) to express itself. Even though we change, God does not change his mind about loving us even when we are his enemies (Romans 5:8)
4. Man has the wrong purpose-1John 4:17- Even as He is in the world, so are we- our purpose to love should be to be like Christ rather than self pleasure or gratification. Our purpose should be to display God's love for the world and especially His Church.

He that Loveth not knoweth not God, for God is LOVE.

Some of the brethren in attendance at LBC Folsom Kings James Lecture Meeting



Jim Brower & Brayden Barnum
Trinity MBC—Citrus Heights



Tom Shores

Breaking for lunch



Waiting in Line



Frank Palmer



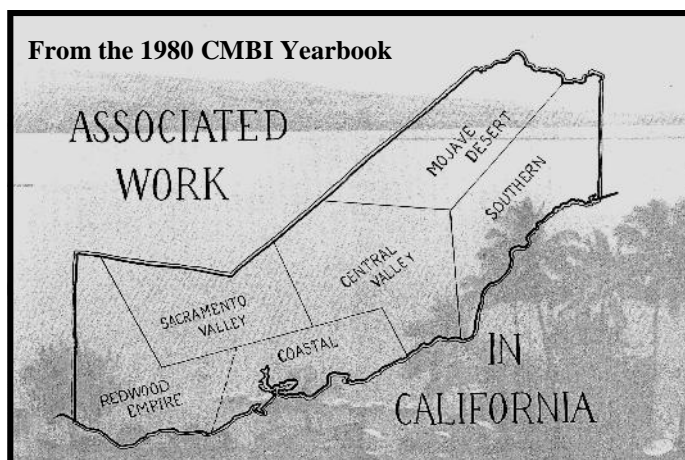
Chuck Buchanan



Danny Douglas

Baptist work begins in the Local Church. As churches increase, their need to associate together increases. The Landmark Missionary Baptist churches fellowshipping with the Cooperative Association on a State level have developed into 6 various Local Associations statewide.

Associated Work In California



Redwood Empire Association of Missionary Baptist Churches 1960 to 1980

Through the efforts of Harold Lloyd and others, this Association was organized April 16, 1966. The initial meeting was held with the Eureka Landmark Missionary Baptist Church. Brother Harley Baker was elected as moderator. The following churches were represented by Messengers: Eureka LMBC, Harold Lloyd, Pastor; Hoopa LMBC, Ivan Edsall, Pastor; Cloverdale MBC, Gerald Lloyd, Pastor; and Rio Dell MBC, Harley Baker, Pastor. The Doctrinal Statement and Articles of Agreements were patterned after the Articles of Agreements found in the California Cooperative Association.

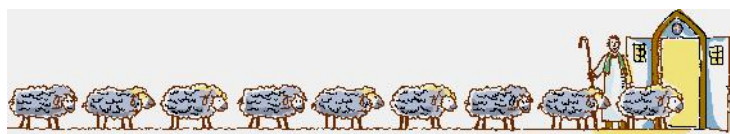
Sacramento Valley Missionary Baptist Association 1961 to 2006 *Minutes of the Initial Meeting of the Valley Missionary Baptist Association* April 8, 1961

On April 8, 1961, messengers from nineteen churches of the Northern California Missionary Baptist association met in Sacramento with the First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church for the purpose of organizing an association of the churches located in the Northern San Joaquin and Sacramento Valley, the express and sole purpose being to shorten the distance between the cooperating churches, and to localize the work of missions. The entire Northern California Missionary Baptist Association was in harmony with this action. The churches of the coastal area organized an association the same day, April 8, 1961. Elder L. D. Perdue, pastor of the host church, and Bro. Bill Anders, the assistant clerk of the host church, acted as moderator and clerk pro- tem until regular officers were elected. The following churches were represented: Chico, Ceres, Fair Oaks, Florin, Keyes, Modesto, Oakdale, Oroville, Riverbank, Fruitridge, Landmark Sacramento, Eastside Stockton, Mt Olive Stockton, Woodbridge, North Highlands, Granite Park, Turlock, and Sheridan. ...the following officers were elected: Joe Spradlin, moderator; Lee Wright, assistant; G. A. Williams, clerk; H. B. Beam, assistant. Motion and second to adopt the Articles of

Coastal Cooperative Association of Missionary Baptist Churches 1961 to 2006

The Initial Meeting of the Coastal Cooperative Missionary Baptist Association. April 8, 1961 9:30 AM, 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 was 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 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.

[Continued on page 7]



Central Valley Association of Missionary Baptist Churches 1945 to 2006

Initial Session August 5-6, 1952 The initial session of the Central Valley Association of Missionary Baptist Churches was held with the Armona Missionary Baptist Church. The minutes were printed on mimeograph. Martin Canavan was the moderator and R.R. Farris was the clerk. C. C. Middleton was the state missionary and was recommended for support. There were petitionary letters from Exeter and A.B.A. Porterville (East Date). The Exeter Church was organized by J. A. Tabor. The Porterville Church was organized by J. C. Patterson.

Southern Cooperative Association of Missionary Baptist Churches (ABA)

First, Second and Third Sessions, 1956-58 The organization meeting of this association probably took place in 1956 and the 5 churches listed in the State Minutes from this area would be working together. A monthly Youth Rally was already functioning. By 1957 the number of churches had grown to 7. Then according to the minutes of the third meeting October 17-18, 1958, the number of churches hit the 18 mark. This meeting was held with the Calvary MBC in Riverside. The Moderator was Martin Canavan with C. C. Middleton as clerk. This was the first year that Bellflower represented in the Coop work. Herbert Banks was the pastor and CMBI had been started while Bellflower (Glory Gardens) was in the Old State Association.

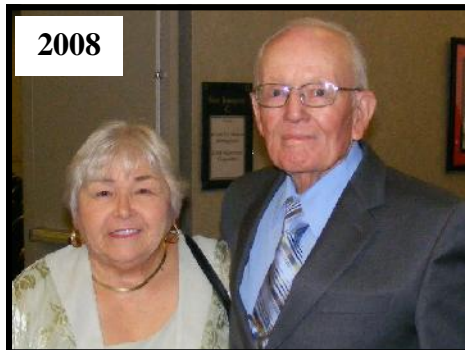
Mojave Desert Landmark Missionary Baptist Association of California ~ 1957 to 2006 (ABA)

Organization of Desert Association The Barstow Church has voted to invite her sister churches of like faith and order to send three messengers for the purpose of organizing a desert association, the time being set for February 22 at 7:00 PM. Letters have already been sent to the above mentioned churches concerning this organization. We invite all other brethren to sit in council with us.

First Annual Session, 1957 Messengers from the Barstow, Lancaster, Ridgecrest and Palmdale churches and missions met in Barstow, California to organize the Mojave Desert Association of Landmark Missionary Baptist churches in 1957. A doctrinal statement patterned after the ABA statement, and the messengers adopted articles of agreement. The officers to be elected were the moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, and assistant clerk. The Moderator was R. A. Thommarson.

Excerpt From History of Landmark Baptists of California Volume 1—Published by the History & Archives Committee of the Cooperative Association Missionary Baptist Churches of California

Bro. & Sis. Frank Preston of the Missionary Baptist Church in Shafter



The Preston's are Lisa Langley's Grandparents She is the wife of Brian Langley, pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church in Bakersfield.

They are one of my favorite California Baptist couples and have been a personal blessing to me through the years.

Archive Photo Collection



Eric Brown
Pastor—FMBC
Bellflower



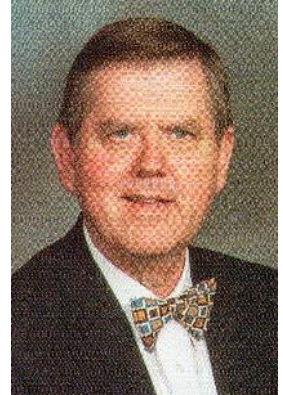
David Butimore
Pastor—FMBC
Fresno



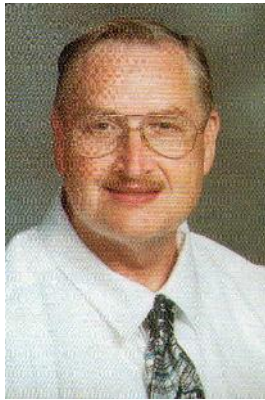
Larry Crouch
Pastor—Bethel MBC
Oakley



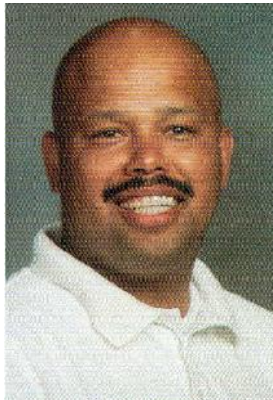
Bill Gurnett
Pastor—LMBC
Martinez



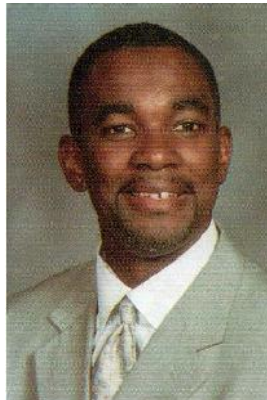
Dewayne Hoppert
Pastor—TMBC
Tulare



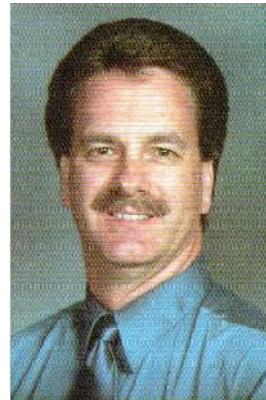
John Hurd
Pastor—FMBC
Bellflower



George McClay
Pastor—CMBC
Wasco



Andrew McClung
Pastor—LWMNC
Long Beach



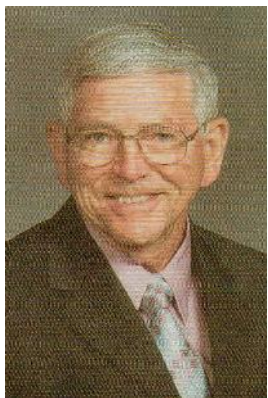
Thomas McCright
Pastor—FMBC
Porterville



Lester Miller
Pastor—LMBC
Freedom



Jim Nixon
Pastor—SMBC
Shafter



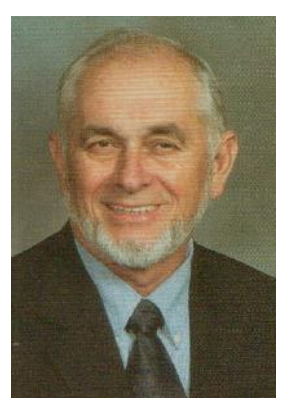
Tonie Robertson
Pastor—FMBC
Oakdale



Scott Tourville
Pastor—FMBC
Concord



Lonnie Wiggins
Pastor—FMBC
Redlands



Roger Youders
Pastor—LMBC
Oakhurst

From the 2005 ABA Pictorial Directory