

LANDMARK BAPTIST HISTORIAN

Published by Landmark Baptist Church - Folsom, California

June 2014 - Volume 4 ~ Number 1

"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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Recommended reading for those interested in California Baptist History for the 1890's.

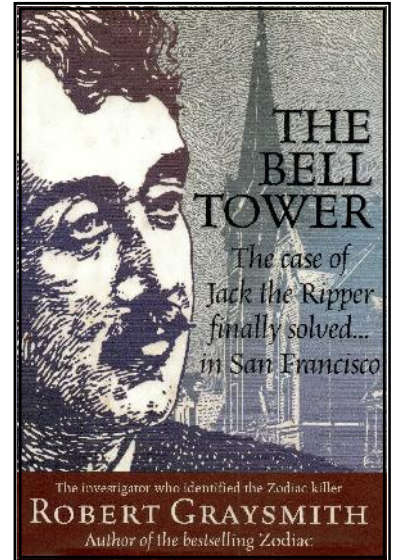
While written by a secular journalist, it covers some fertile soil.

Imagine if you will my surprise when I discovered that pastor Gibson was a regular contributor to *The Baptist Sentinel*, published in The Dalles, Oregon in the 1890's.

This Baptist paper was a bastion for Landmark Baptists on the Pacific Coast.


This book will make you raise your eyebrow and go Hmmm.

—The editor



\$27.95

The true Jack the Ripper revealed—by the investigator who identified the Zodiac killer



San Francisco's Emmanuel Baptist church was built amid the hollows, odd lights, and drifting fog of what had been a burial ground.

Rumors of ghosts and orgies swirl around the church. Worse is the repeated, brutal fact of suicide and murder. The church's first pastor severed his own throat with a straight razor, the second pastor shot himself, the third murdered the publisher of the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

The fourth pastor is "Jack" Gibson, formerly of Glasgow and London, who left Britain for reasons as mysterious as the deep wounds on his neck. He bears an uncanny resemblance to the one eyewitness description of Jack the Ripper.


After Pastor Jack takes over the church, two beautiful choir girls are found dead in its creaking bell tower: Minnie Williams, stabbed and crucified, and Blanche Lamont, horribly strangled, her nude body arranged as though in prayer.

The immediate suspect is not the pastor, but a young medical student with keys to the bell tower. And Pastor Jack is only too ready to testify against his own parishioner.

Until now, only the guilty parties knew the secrets of the church's false ceiling.

(CONTINUED ON BACK FLAP)

THE BELL TOWER 5 x 7



Pastor Jack Gibson

He left London in December 1888, and the Ripper murders ceased. When he arrived in New Jersey a murder occurred there so similar that Scotland Yard dispatched men to the States. When Gibson arrived in San Francisco a series of murders inside his church—stabbing strangulations by a left-handed man—began. Two Ripper letters were postmarked Glasgow, where he had a church; he studied religion near the Church Street murder; and he uncannily matched Jack the Ripper's description.

Thirty years old in 1888, five-foot, nine-inches tall, fair complexion that is flushed when he is angry. Round-faced, with a small, fair moustache whose ends turn upward, broad-shouldered with medium build, badly scarred neck hidden by clerical collar or red scarf at all times. Imperious and insolent manner, and has a fine, loud singing voice.

Police artist's impression of Jack the Ripper
published on October 6, 1888


The following description is called by both police and experts as the only reliable one of Jack ever given. Joseph Lawende and his friends were placed in protective custody after sighting the Ripper under bright moonlight on September 30, 1888.

"Thirty-years old, five-foot, nine-inches tall with a fair complexion, fair hair, and a small light moustache which curls at the ends. Broad-shouldered with a medium build. Round-faced with a red handkerchief around his neck. He carried himself like a gentleman and sang in a fine loud voice.

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT FLAP)

sealed bell tower, and its hallucinogenic gas burners.

But true-crime investigator Robert Graysmith pierces the mystery of the bell tower, and unravels this first "trial of the century," which catapulted newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst to fame. It is a trail that ultimately leads Graysmith to the true identity of Jack the Ripper.



ROBERT GRAYSMITH is the national bestselling author of *Zodiac*—a true-crime thriller that has been optioned by Touchstone Pictures for a major motion picture. A *San Francisco Chronicle* journalist for more than twenty years, Graysmith is a Foreign Press Club Award winner, a seven-time Pulitzer Prize nominee, and a Gold Medal illustrator. He is also the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Sleeping Lady*, *Unabomber*, and *The Murder of Bob Crane*. He lives in San Francisco.

Jackets design by Marja Walker
Cover illustrations by Robert Graysmith
Author photo by Margot Graysmith

Since 1947
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Lanham, Maryland

See more about Gibson on page 10

Obituary Richard LeRoy Stevenson, Sr.

Published in Appeal Democrat on May 9, 201



Richard LeRoy Stevenson, Sr. was received into the arms of Jesus, on April 24, 2014. Born in Poteau, Oklahoma. A long time resident of Yuba City, California for 77 years.

He is survived by his loving wife, Betty Stevenson of 59 years; his son, Mike Stevenson and daughter in-law, Jean of Yuba City, CA; his daughter, Lisa Wright and son in-law, Michael Wright of Yuba City, CA; his daughter, Paula Stevenson of Red Bluff, CA; and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Preceded in death by his father and mother, Walter and Pauline Stevenson; his brother, Gerald Stevenson; and his son, Richard Stevenson, Jr.

He was a loving husband and father to his family. He was a great provider and had a strong work ethic. Serving in the National Guard, also. He was an owner/operator in the Pest Control industry for 57 years. He has been retired for 2 years. He was a Deacon at Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in Ukiah, CA when God called him into the ministry, and shortly after that to the Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in Marysville, CA where he served as pastor for 20 years. He has been a member of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Oroville, CA for 22 years.



ELDER RICHARD LEROY STEVENSON

Elder Richard Leroy Stevenson was born again on June 1954 at the First Missionary Baptist Church of Yuba City and baptized on June 1954 by the Yuba City Church with Eld Wendell Lane officiating. He was called to the ministry while at the Ukiah Landmark Missionary Baptist on May 5, 1971. He was ordained on April 1972 by the Ukiah Missionary Baptist Church. Present on the ordination council were; Eld Bill Whala, Eld Rick Perdue, Eld A.A. Harris, Eld Leonard Buttram, and Eld Harold Blaylock.

Elder Stevenson Pastors the Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Marysville, California May 1972.

Landmark Jubilee 1931-1981
Booklet—Published by FMBC Yuba City, CA
California State Missionary Baptist Association



Images captured at Memorial Service—May 1, 2014—New Hope MBC, Oroville

Connie Columbus Wright— Memorial

The Best

*God saw you getting tired
and a cure was not to be.
So He put his arms around
you and He whispered,
"Come with Me."
With tearful eyes we
watched you.
We watched you pass
away. Although we
loved you dearly,
we could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
hard working hands at rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He chose to take the best.*

In Loving Memory


Connie Columbus Wright

<p><i>Place of Birth</i> Glenwood, Arkansas December 4th, 1928</p>	<p><i>Entered into Rest</i> Modesto, California April 28th, 2014</p>
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~ *Chapel Service* ~
Tuesday May 6th, 2014 10:00AM
Lakewood Funeral Home
Heritage Chapel
Hughson, California

~ *Officiant* ~
Pastor Robb Gonzales

~ *Interment* ~
Serenity I Garden
Lakewood Memorial Park
Hughson, California
www.lakewoodhughson.com



From the Archives File

ORDAINED PASTOR/PREACHERS

PASTOR: C.C. WRIGHT

DATE OF BIRTH: DECEMBER 4, 1928

PLACE OF BIRTH: GLENWOOD, ARKANSAS

DATE AND PLACE WHERE SAVED: 1945 SANGER, CALIFORNIA

DATE AND PLACE OF BAPTISM: 1945 SANGER, CALIFORNIA

NAME AND LOCATION OF CHURCH: FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST
SANGER, CALIFORNIA

DATE CALLED TO THE MINISTRY: FEBRUARY 18, 1951

DATE AND CHURCH THAT ORDAINED YOU: JANUARY 1, 1954
FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST, CERES, CALIFORNIA


NAMES OF ORDINATION COUNCIL: JONA L. WRIGHT, LEE WRIGHT,
VERNON STANLEY, L.M. BRANCH, BILL PORTER, GORDON RICHWINE,
ROBERT SKAGGS, D. BURCH, OLEN DUNAWAY, M.B. HUBBARO, LEE
HOOPER, BILL HILTON, WAYNE EASLON, OE.HALL.

LIST OF CHURCHES AND ADDRESSES YOU HAVE PASTORED: NEW HOPE
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, KEYES, CALIFORNIA. LANDMARK
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA. FIRST
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, RIVERBANK, CALIFORNIA.

SCHOOLS ATTENDED AND DATES: PACIFIC COAST BIBLE INSTITUTE,
1950/1951. LITTLE ROCK SEMINARY, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,
1952. CERES BIBLE SCHOOL, 1953.

50 years in ministry

+ RIVERBANK — Pastor
Connie C. Wright of First
Missionary Baptist Church
celebrated his 50th anniversary
in the ministry last month.



Wright

Wright, 72, preached his first sermon in 1951 in Sutherlin, Ore. The following year, he enrolled in Little Rock Seminary in Little Rock, Ark. Wright served as pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Keyes from 1953-56 and at Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church in Martinez from 1957-69. He has been pastor of the Riverbank congregation since 1971.

Modesto Bee—March 3, 2002

Connie Columbus Wright— Memorial



Wright, Connie C.

Brother Connie was born December 4, 1928, in Glenwood, Arkansas. He was saved and baptised in Sanger, California. On February 18, 1951, he surrendered to the ministry in the FMBC in Sutherland Oregon. On January 1, 1954 he was ordained by the FMBC in Ceres.

He pastored the Missionary Baptist Church, Keyes from 1953-56; LMBC in Martinez; and the EMBC in Riverbank from 1957-63 and from 1965-69. He attended the Pacific Coast Bible Institute, Riverbank from 1950-51; Missionary Baptist Seminary, in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1952; and Ceres Bible School in 1953.

Excerpt from: *History of Landmark Baptists of California—Vol. Two*

Published by the History & Archives Committee of the Cooperative Association of Missionary Baptist Churches of California.

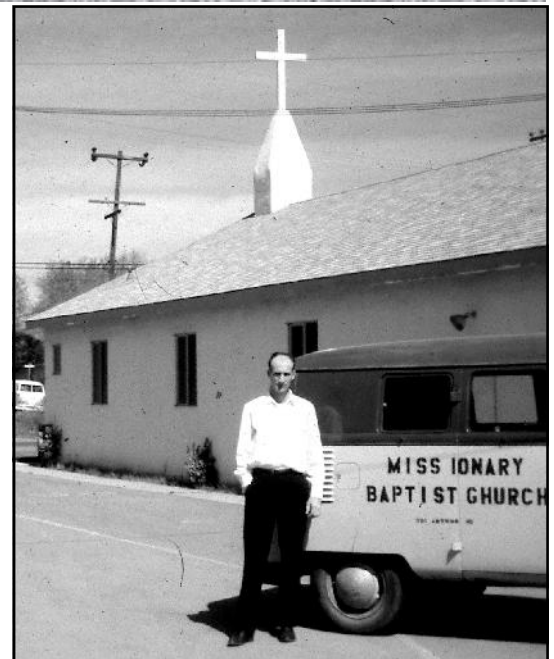
—Page 229.

From the Archives File

Messenger Body Meeting
By L. D. Foreman

Above is a picture of the Finance committee hard at work at the recent meeting of the American Baptist Association. They are Brethren Lory Poynor, Arkansas, and Connie Wright, California.

Searchlight March 1952



At LMBC Martinez
Perdue Photo File

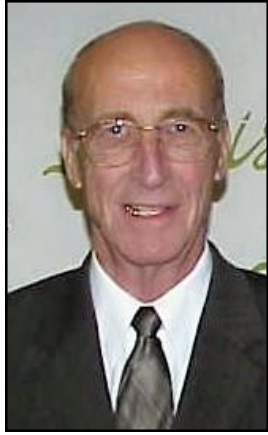


With L. D. Perdue at FRMBC—Riverbank

Connie Columbus Wright— Association Photo Gallery



2001



2003



2004



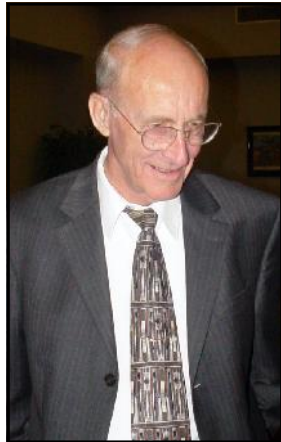
2005



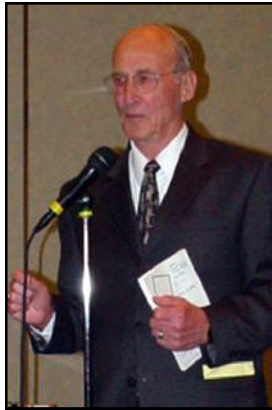
2008



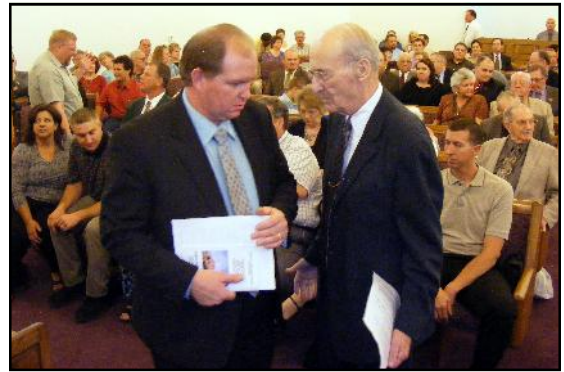
1998



2006



2005



2008 SVMBA—Live Oak



2010—O. E. Hall Memorial Service—Riverbank



2005 SVMBA—Jamestown

Connie Columbus Wright— Memorial Service

MAY 7/65

LESSON--- PS. 116:12-15
 SUB---THE VALUE OF THE DEATH OF THE SAINTS.
 TEXT---PS. 116:15, Rev. 14:13
 INTRO---THE TEXT INFORMS US THAT THE DEATHS OF GOD'S SAINTS ARE PRECIOUS TO HIM. HOW DIFFERENT THEN IS THE ESTIMATE OF HUMAN LIFE WHICH GOD FORMS FROM THAT WHICH HAS RULED THE MINDS OF GREAT WARRIORS. NAPOLEON WOULD LIKENED IT TO SO MUCH WATER SPILT ON THE GROUND, ALSO THE PERSECUTORS. TX.

EXTERMATE OBNOTSHIOS INSECTS

I. THE DEATH OF THE SAINTS OF GOD AND ITS VALUE

1. In it we give the sweetest e xpression of our love to God. "In sickness", I am almost well" "the 23 Ps." "in persecution-- Julian striped, whipped, and put into a leather bag with serpents and scorpions and thrown into the sea. Tx. Death in persecution many times preaches the powerfullst gosperl. AD 163, Epipodius Pg. 62, Act 7:54-60, Tx. We will behold the glory of Christ. Jn.17:24

IT IS IN DEATH THAT CHRIST CAN REALLY HAVE US ALONE WITH HIM.

II. MY FIRST TEXT MAKES THE DEATH OF SAINTS VALUABLE TO GOD AND MY SECOND TEXT MAKES IT FORTUNATE FOR THE SAINT

1. That they may rest from their labors. Rest--to be exempt to refresh from trials as a Christian. Rest from the trials and battles of life. Act 20:22-24, Death of Moses Deut. 34 ch. II Tim. 4:6-8, Tx. Death is like the boys bird eggs that hatched out, he thought they were destroyed, but only flew away with liberty and left the old shell.

III. THEIR WORKS DO FOLLOW OR GO ALONG WITH THEM.

1. The work of every soul won to Christ will go along with us. Ps. 126:5-6, Tx. There is no value in the sight of God in the death of the lost. Ezk.33:11, II Pet. 3:9

How will we be able to see the death of the work of death in a moment of time?

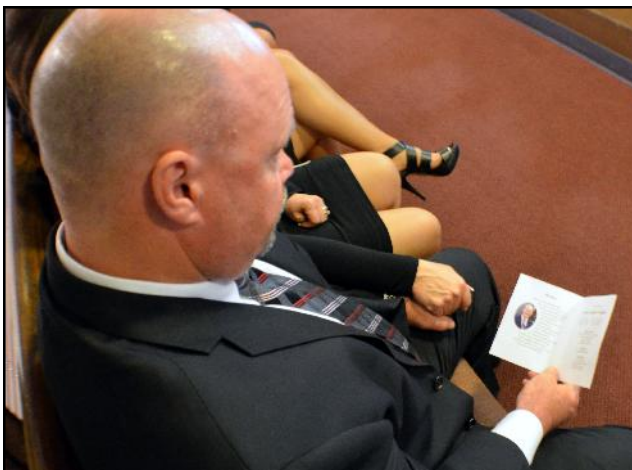
Sample Sermon



Eld. Robb Gonzales delivering the Memorial Sermon.



A portion of those gathered.



Mark Malone, Connie's Nephew, during Service



The Wright's after Service—Darrel, Lee & Phil

Raymond Bynum—January 20, 1938—January 24, 2014 Memorial

Bynum, Raymond L. (Left Work)

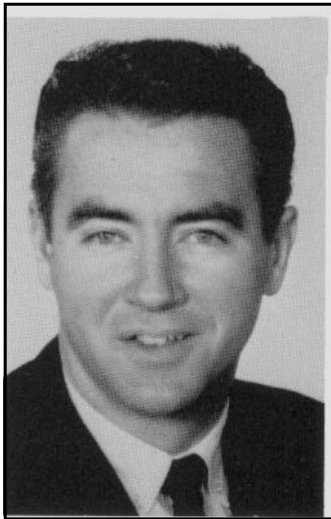
Brother Raymond was born in Fayetteville, AR on January 20, 1938. He married Virginia Butler June 2, 1956 and to this union was born two children. He found the Lord as his Savior March of 1955. The Lord called him to preach and he was licensed by Corcoran MBC October 7, 1970 and ordained by the South Gate MBC church in 1971.

He attended CMBI from 1963-66. After his ordination he became pastor of Olive Hill MBC in Oroville from 1971-81. He pastored the FMBC of Salinas from 1981-94.

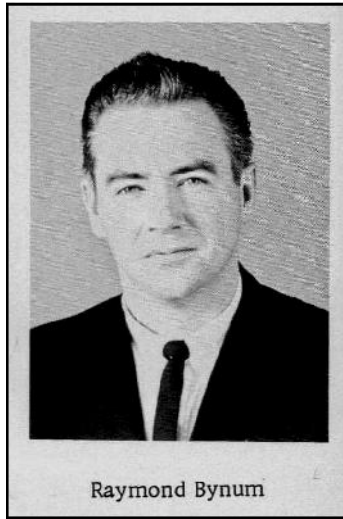
While at Salinas his wife Virginia came down with cancer and passed away.

He served as missionary in Madera sponsored by the Armona church. He resigned the mission and briefly accepted the small church in Santa Maria after which he retired.

Excerpt from History of Landmark Baptists of California—Vol. Two—Published by the History & Archives Committee of the Co-operative Association of Missionary Baptist Churches—of California.—Page 29.



1964 CMBI Photo

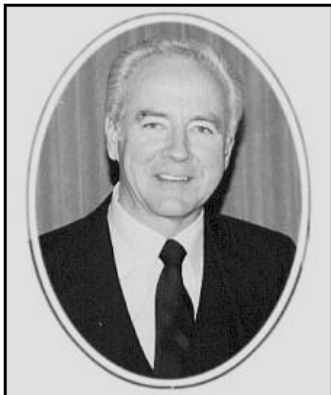


Raymond Bynum

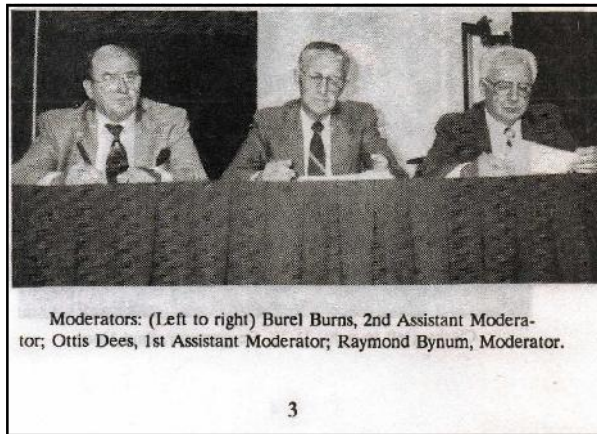
1965 CMBI Photo



Ray & Virginia Bynum



1974—1981 Clerk
Sacramento Valley
Missionary Baptist
Association



Moderators: (Left to right) Burel Burns, 2nd Assistant Moderator; Ottis Dees, 1st Assistant Moderator; Raymond Bynum, Moderator.

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1992 Yearbook—Cooperative Association
of Missionary Baptist Churches of California



Ray & Rachel Bynum



Raymond Bynum—January 20, 1938—January 24, 2014 Memorial

Raymond Lee Bynum January 20, 1938—January 24, 2014



Life Legacy


Raymond Lee Bynum of Fresno passed away on Friday, January 24, 2014 at age 75. He was a minister.

He is survived by his wife, Rachel Verburg Bynum; his children, Steven Bynum and his wife Marcie Bynum of Salinas, Teresa Yockey and her husband Carl Yockey of Corcoran; step-children, Angie Verburg and her husband Greg Schlepp of Longmont, Colorado; daughter-in-law, Melanie Verburg of Fresno, Anna Dennis of Fresno, Melanie Izard and her husband David Izard of Fresno; grandchildren, Bynum side of family, Joshua Baker, Kimberly White, Patricia Guzman, Paul Baker, Sean Bynum and Kerry Bynum; 10 great-grandchildren; grandchildren Verburg side of family, Joshua Verburg, Jake Verburg, Austin Verburg, Tyler Verburg, Christian Dennis, Jenny Dennis, Beth Izard and Rebekah Izard, all of Fresno; and his brother, Rick Bynum of Henderson, Nevada.

This memorial provided by:

Farwell Funeral Service

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Elder Raymond Bynum

MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

Text: Joshua 4:19-21

To the messengers of the California Cooperative Association of Missionary Baptist, I thank you for your confidence in me to serve as your Moderator for this associational year.

I respectfully call upon you for your cooperation and support during the three days of our meetings.

Brethren from out of state and friends of this associated work, we welcome you to this meeting.

As I began making preparations for this address, I began thinking of the years that have passed since this association was formed on February 12, 1952. Many familiar names were listed among those at the first meeting, and many of these dear brethren have gone on to be with the Lord.

There were some who speculated and rumored that this cooperative effort might set a "spark of conventionism." Forty years have passed, and as far as I am concerned, we have one of the strongest associated works to be found anywhere.

May I focus your attention on our text? Joshua 4:19-21

I am grateful for the brethren who met in 1952, and with prayer and godly wisdom, adopted the Articles of Agreement and Doctrinal Statement for the California Cooperative Association of Missionary Baptist.

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As it was with the next generation of Israelites in the "Promised Land," the stones would stand as a monument and a testimony that the hand of the Lord is mighty and one to be honored.

We would do well to reflect back to the late "twenties" and early "thirties," during a depression, and see how our Lord blessed a determined people. They came here with little financially, but with raw courage and a will fixed on a heart-felt desire to serve God, New Testament churches began springing up.

God has truly blessed us in the State of California!

Satan is doing everything that He can to destroy our associated work. He knows that if He can weaken the families, this will weaken the local church. With churches weakened, our cooperative efforts will be weakened, and missions and Christian education will suffer.

As your Moderator, I would encourage the families of each church to know our Doctrinal Statement and our Articles of Agreement. Baptist heritage is identified by these things and the responsibility of passing it on to the next generation is ours!


A quote from our text: "When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, what mean these stones? Then ye shall let your children know."

I would like to thank Bro. I. K. Cross for the many years and tedious work that he has done to remind us of our Baptist heritage.

Let us resolve to not abandon our heritage in an age of compromise and our Lord will be honored and we will be blessed.

As churches we have a great responsibility, but real "Christian" values must be established in the home. As the homes go, so go the churches.

May we all be united in our homes and in our churches in 1992 and until Jesus comes!



Songleader: Brother Stanley Hester

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Raymond Bynum—January 20, 1938—January 24, 2014 Memorial

Attention: The work of this Committee is entirely dependent upon free will offerings from our people; please consider sending a donation for our work with this form.

Thanks.

AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
MISSIONARY BAPTIST
BIOGRAPHICAL FORM

Offering Enclosed:
An offering of \$ _____ is enclosed to help the work of the Committee.

(For pastors, missionaries, preachers, etc.)

1. Name: BYNUM RAYMOND L.
(last) (first) (middle)

2. Birth: Washington Fayetteville Arkansas 1-20-38
(county) (town) (state/country) (date)

3. Death: _____
(county) (town) (state/country) (date)

4. Parents: Jesse Bynum Juanita Bynum
(father) (mother)

5. Lived at: (post office) (county) (state/country) (dates-years)
 a. Corcoran, CA Kings 1941-1953
 b. Bakersfield, CA Kern 1953-1962
 c. Southgate, CA L.A. 1962-1971
 d. Corcoran, CA Butte 1971-1981
 e. Salinas, CA Monterey 1981-present
 f. _____

6. Education: (institution) (city) (state/country) (dates) (degree)
 a. High school Corcoran Union High Corcoran CA 1955
 b. College/seminary Bethlehem CA (M.B.) 1963-66
 c. Graduate school _____
 d. Other (specify) _____

7. Special awards or honors: _____

8. Spouse: Virginia Butler Corcoran, CA 6-2-56
(name) (maiden name) (place of marriage) (date)

9. Children: (name) (date of birth) (date of death)
Teresa Yaskoy April 8, 1957
Steven Bynum Aug. 11, 1960

10. Vocations, occupations, trades, or professions, other than minister:
Retail sales and management, Ministry and leadership work

11. Fraternal or group memberships: _____

12. Spiritual information:
 conversion: Mar 1955 Corcoran, CA (date) (baptized-church) (location) (date)
 licensed: 10-7-70 Southgate, CA (date) (church) (location)
 ordained: 8-28-71 Landmark M.B.C. Southgate, CA (date) (church) (location)

13. Local church offices held, other than pastor:
 a. _____ deacon b. trustee c. _____ church clerk d. _____ church treas.
 e. choir director f. _____ other (specify) _____

14. Offices held in associations, colleges, seminaries, committees, etc.

(position)	(location)	(type of service)	(dates-years)
past. moderator	Visalia, CA	State Assoc of CA	1988-1991
moderator		State Assoc of CA	1992-1993
Clerk		Sacramento Valley M.B. Assoc	1974-1981

15. Churches pastored:

(church)	(address)	(state/country)	(dates-years)
OLIVE Hill M.B.C.	8703 Olive Hwy	OROVILLE, CA	Aug 1971-Nov 1981
FIRST M.B.C.	1201 SERRANO AVE	SALINAS, CA	Dec. 1981-PRESENT

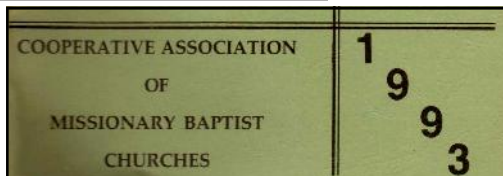
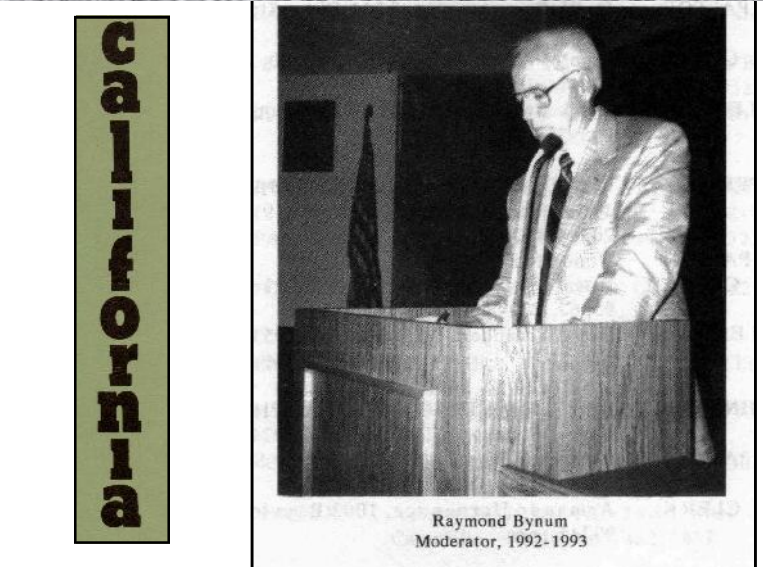
16. Author of: (books, pamphlets, tracts, etc.)
 (title) (publisher) (date)

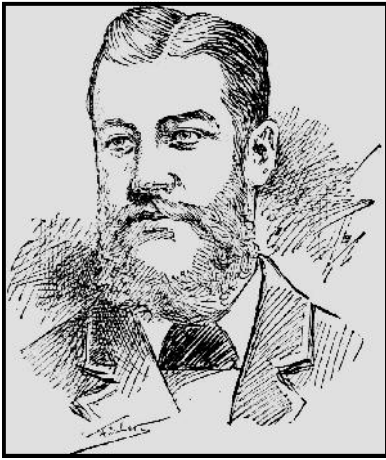
17. Military service: _____

18. Sources used in compiling this information: _____

20. This form completed by: Raymond Bynum (name) 1673 Mountain View (address) Salinas, CA (date) 2-7-96 83906

• From the Archive File





Pastor John George Gibson

Gibson was named as Jack the Ripper by author Robert Graysmith in the book *The Bell Tower*. Graysmith makes the claim that Theo Durrant, a 24 year old medical student, who was arrested, found guilty and executed on 7 January 1898 for the murder of two women, Blanch Lamont 18, and Minnie Williams 21, in San Francisco's Baptist Church, was in fact innocent of the crime and that the real culprit was John George Gibson, the church pastor. Graysmith then goes on to claim that Gibson was also responsible for the Whitechapel murders. Graysmith claims Gibson was In London when the murders occurred, and suddenly left shortly after.

John George Gibson was born in Edinburgh on 14 August 1859, and at the time of the Whitechapel murders was 29 years of age, 5ft 9" tall, fair haired with a small sandy moustache, well built and broad shouldered. According to the *San Francisco News*, Gibson confessed on his deathbed to Charlie Floyd, in the spring of 1912, that it was he, and not Theo Durrant, who murdered Blanch Lamont and Minnie Williams. Unfortunately the person Gibson supposedly confessed to, Charlie Floyd, never actually existed and appears to be a hybrid of several different people. There is no evidence Gibson was in London at the time of the Ripper murders and it is believed he was serving at a church in Scotland at the time. While Graysmith produces no evidence that Gibson was responsible for the Whitechapel murders, he also provides no evidence that Gibson perpetrated the murders in San Francisco's Baptist church either, or that Theo Durrant was actually innocent of the crimes.

Sources:- http://www.casebook.org/ripper_media/book_reviews/non-fiction/cjmorley/66.html
Image Source:- California Digital Newspaper Collection > San Francisco Call > 25 August 1895 > EX-JUROR BROWN VISITS PASTOR Gibson



March 2014 Breakfast with brethren from Carmichael Baptist Church

Left - Right: George Townsend, Jr.; Bill Brown, pastor; Bob Cullifer; Robert Cash, and Benjamin Campbell