Answer: Larry Crouch

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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50 Questions for Oral History Interviewspage 19

Guess Who.....



Please send a baby/child photo of your pastor for this Guess Who challenge.

 ${\it Lb folsom@aol.com}.$

This Issue **Dedicated to Our California Baptist Women**



In Memoriam

Dorothy Sue Madden

Dorothy Sue Hollingsworth Madden, 89, passed away on Sunday, January 25, 2015, at Bailey Creek Rehab and Nursing Facility, Texarkana, Arkansas. She was born October 18, 1925, in Elkhart, Texas, to James Elbert and Verna Lee Hollingsworth. She graduated from Pine Bluff High School in 1943 and married Darius Sherwood "Boots" Madden on February 18, 1945.

Mrs. Madden was a true servant of God and loving mother. She assisted her hus-

band as a faithful pastor's wife at churches in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and California before moving to Texarkana to assist him in the A. B. A. Missions Office in 1980. She also worked for many years at J. C. Penney's.

Dorothy was married to Boots Madden for 59 years until his death in 2004. She is survived by three daughters, Patricia Clements and husband, Larry, of Monticello, Arkansas; Rita Bishop and husband, Tony, of Lodi, California; and Paula Williams and husband Danny, of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas; fourteen grandchildren, twenty-six great grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews. She is also survived by two brothers, Jimmy Hollingsworth and wife Ann, of Bogalusa, Louisiana, and Harold Hollingsworth and wife Pat, of Tyler, Texas.

ABA News

Posted by Board Mgr on Jan-25 7:41 PM

Name: Charlie Ellison charlierellison@gmail.com

Editors Note:-

Sadly, biographical information of our Ladies has not been aggressively pursued, as has been the chase with our ministerial brethren. The work accomplished by our Ladies is just as valuable and note worthy as that of our Pastors, churches and associations.

It is my sincere hope and anticipation that this Issue will serve as a catalyst to fill the void in this area. To that end, 50 Questions for Oral History Interviews have been included on pages 19 & 20. I want to challenge the Ladies of each District to take on the task of preparing biographies of prominent leaders in the work from their area. Send results to *Lbfolsom@aol.com*. RWC

From: Semi-Centennial Souvenir Booklet—Cooperative Association Fifty—First Session April 2001—Page 35

State Ladies Auxiliary Officers

Initial Meeting: April 16 & 17, 1957

At First Missionary Baptist Church McFarland, California

15 Ladies Auxiliary Represent

Statement of Principles: Article II. Purpose

The purpose of this State Auxiliary shall be to encourage the women of the local churches to be active in all phases of the work in which they have the Scriptural right to participate, and to encourage the establishment of Auxiliaries in all Missionary Baptist Churches where none exit.

1960 Minute Book, page 36

President / Secretary

1957 ~ Ann Walton/ Helen Easion

1958 ~ Ann Walton / None Listed

1959 ~ Kathryn Nance / Sis. Branch

1960 ~ Dorothy Canavan / Burl Beene 1961 ~ Mary McCalister / Burl Beene

1962 ~ Ruby Chastain / Zula Whitmire

1963 ~ Lula Fiser / Ruth Burnes

1964 ~ Doris Reed / Ruth Burnes

1965 ~ Dorothy Madden / Burl Beene

1966 ~ Dorothy Madden / Lula Mae Fiser 1967 ~ Christine Caves / Betty Isenhower

1968 ~ Lovada Magness / Pat Smith

1969 ~ Euvis Patterson / Pat Smith

1970 ~ Pat Counts / Mary McCalister

1971 ~ Pat Counts / Lois Stevens

1972 ~ Pat Smith / Lula Mae Fiser

1973 ~ Pat Smith / Linda Bergstrasser

1974 ~ Betty J. Keeling / Linda Bergstrasser

1975 ~ Betty J. Keeling / Pat Clements

1976 ~ Billie Cain / Pat Clements

1977 ~ Virginia Bynum / Rita Christian

1978 ~ Virginia Bynum / Rita Christian

1979 ~ Rita Christian / Martha Housewright *****

1980 ~ Rita Christian / Charlene Max

1981 ~ Sandi Roberson / Charlene Max

1982 ~ Sandi Roberson / Karen Pierpoint

1983 ~ Joyce Williams / Dianne Simonton

1984 ~ Joyce Williams / Dianne Simonton

1985 ~ Frances McClung / Peggy Hosman

1986 ~ Frances McClung / Peggy Hosman

1987 ~ LaDean Paslay / Deborah

Butimore

1988 ~ LaDean Paslay / Carolyn Drybread

1989 ~ Winona Andresen / Carolyn Drybread

1990 ~ Winona Graham / Carla Roadcap

1991 ~ Deborah Butimore / Nadine Ridings

1992 ~ Deborah Butimore / Nadine Ridings

1993 ~ Carla Roadcap / Donna McLaughlin

1994 ~ Carla Roadcap / Donna McLaughlin

1995 ~ Lavona Woolley / Judy Johnson

1996 ~ Lavona Woolley / Judy Johnson

1997 ~ Billie Richardson / Rosie Gurnett

1998 ~ Billie Richardson / Katherine Olson

1999 ~ Debbie Miller / Kimberly Kennedy





1966 Ladies Auxiliary Officers Left to Right: Ruby Chastain; Lavada Magness; Bonnie Woods; Dorothy Madden; Lula Mae Fiser; Ruth Burnes



1967 Ladies Auxiliary Officers
Left to Right: Christine Caves, Lavada Magness, Mrs. Bill
Hoppert, Mrs. Calvin Isenhower, Mrs. June Godbehere,
Mrs. K. G. McKellip.



The California Missionary Baptist State Ladies Auxiliary was well attended, having a representation from thirty-six churches. The goal was the Revolving Loan Fund which helps buy property for Churches in Mexico.

For our 1968 goal we selected our two schools in California. The following officers were elected, from right to left: Mrs. Christine Caves, Brentwood, President; Mrs. Lavada Magness, Antioch, 1st. V. President; Mrs. Bill Hoppert, Corcoran, 2nd V. President; Mrs. Calvin Isenhower, Salinas, Sec'y, and Treas; Mrs. June Godbehere, Wasco, Assistant; Mrs. Roy Reed (not pictured), Bellflower, Parliamen-

tarian; Mrs. K. G. McKellip, Tulare, Assistant.

The ladies consumed about two hours time with their program, "Three Essentials for Christian Growth" and their business meeting, which was directed by Mrs. D. S. Madden, Anaheim, retiring president.

The Baptist Sentinel April 1967 Page 3



Left to right: Eunice Patterson, Mickie Godbehere, Betty Isenhower, Irese McKellip, Katherine Walton, Pat Smith, Lovada Magness

1968 Ladies Auxiliary Officers

Left to Right: Eunice Patterson; Mickey Godbehere; Betty Isenhower; Irese McKellip; Katherine Walton; Pat Smith; Lavada Magness

NOTE: Errors in any List due to original source.—Editor



1969 Ladies Auxiliary Officers

Not identified in Minutes. Just the List of Positions held and by whom.



Left to right: Pat Smith, Betty Keeling, Lula Mae Fiser, Lois Stevens, Phyllis Webb, Dorothy Canavan and Janice Bernasconi

STATE LADIES OFFICERS. These are the officers elected at the state meeting of the state ladies auxiliary in Visalia to preside at the 1978 meeting. L to R: Gail Scott, 1st vice president; Ann Walton, assistant parliamentarian; Linda Fundaro, 2nd vice president; Rita Christian, Sec.-Treasurer; Doris Reed, parliamentarian; Virginia Bynam, president and Linda Been, assistant Sec.-Treasurer.

1972 Yearbook



Left to right — Beverly Burch, Pat Clements, Billie Cain, Betty Keeling, Virginia Bynum, Ann Walton, and Gail Scott.

1977 Yearbook



1978 Yearbook

1976 Yearbook



Sis. Lois Stevens



Sis. Virginia Bynum



Sis. A. D. Compton



Sis. Rita Christian



Sis. Linda Beene



Sandi Roberson, Evelyn Loyd, Mae Mooring, Charlene Max LaDean Paslay, Lorneva Pack, Rita Christian

Left to Right: Betty Reeves, Rita Christian, Joyce Williams, Sandi Roberson, and Karen Pierpoint.

1982 Yearbook

1980 Yearbook



Left to Right: Joyce Williams, Karen Pierpoint, Mary McCalister, Mae Mooring, (seated), Charlene Max, Ann Walton.



State Ladies Auxiliary Officers: from left - Ruth Burns, Mary McCalister, Peggy Hosman, Diane Simonton, Earla Bowline, Joyce Williams and Euvis Patterson.

1981 Yearbook



1983Yearbook



1997 Yearbook



2002 Yearbook



2004 Yearbook



2003 Yearbook



2008 Yearbook



2003—Missionaries Wife's



2008 Yearbook

From Files of Robert Cullifer ABA—Ladies Auxiliary Officers



1959—Mrs. D. S. Madden Third Vice President



1962—Mrs. Paul Magness Third Vice President



1969—Mrs. Betty Shaw Treasurer



1961—Mrs. Henry Nance Asst. Corresponding Sec'y



1964—Mrs. Roy M Reed Recording Secretary



E S

1969—Mrs. Paul Magness Asst. Publicity Director



I

L

R

1962—Mrs. D. S. Madden Recording Secretary

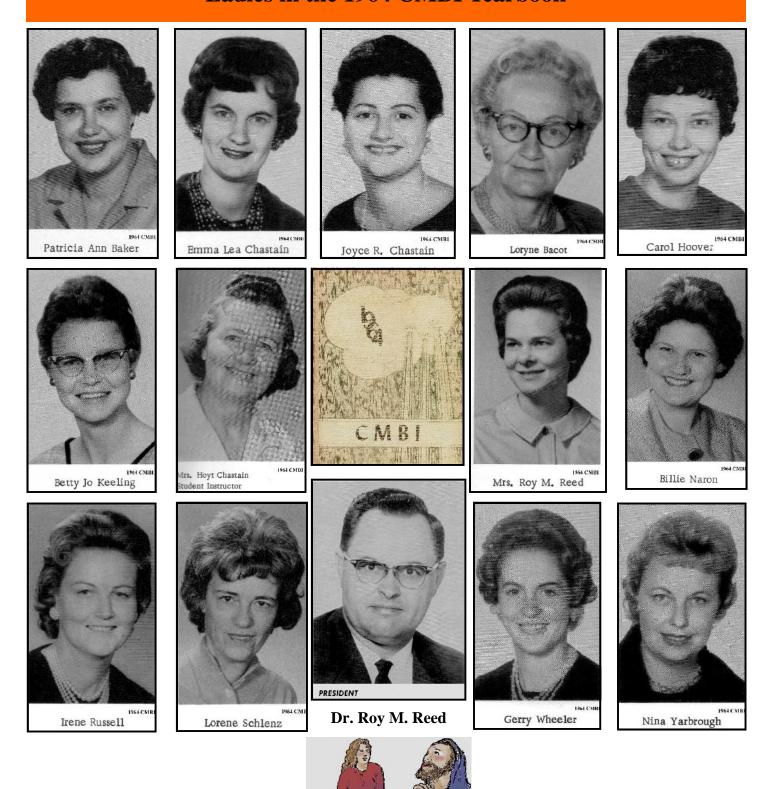


1967—Mrs. Paul Magness Corresponding Secretary



1969—Mrs. Roy M Reed Recording Secretary

From the Files of Our State Archives Ladies in the 1964 CMBI Yearbook



Tabitha Raised From the Dead

From the Files of Our State Archives Ladies in the 1966 CMBI Yearbook



Peggy Dotson

Penny Huitt

Pat Hampton

Margaret Stone

From the Files of Robert W. Cullifer ABA Baptist Sunday School Committee Writers



MARY McCALISTER writes the Junior Sunday School Quarterly. She was born in Yoder, California but lived in the State of Idaho until age 13. She graduated from Tulare High School in Tulare, California, in 1944. In 1944 she was married to L. E. McCalister who is now pastor of the Community Baptist Church of Orange, California. She attended the Missionary Baptist Seminary in Little Rock, Arkansas, with her husband and graduated from that institution with a Graduate in Bible Languages degree. She is from a thoroughly Missionary Baptist family. She is the daughter of a Missionary Baptist deacon and her sisters are married to Missionary Baptist deacons. She is the mother of five children, all are active Missionary Baptist workers in their churches. She teaches the Tiny

Tots Sunday School class. Her present address is: 1002 Trenton, Orange, California 92667.



BETTY SHAW writes the Preschool BTC Quarterly. She was saved at age nine; baptized by the First Baptist Church of Shallowater, Texas, She joined the Lakeview Baptist Church at Lubbock, Texas, at about age 12; has been a Missionary Baptist for over seventeen years. She is the wife of Ron Shaw, Assistant to the Editor-in-Chief of the American Baptist Association and pastor of the Oak Ridge Baptist Church at Maud, Texas. She graduated from the Lubbock, Texas High School; attended one and a half years at the Missionary Baptist Seminary in Little Rock, Arkansas, and six years at the California Missionary Baptist Insitute at Bellflower, California, She is skilled in sign language and has taught that subject in the California Seminary. She has also taught

English and Teaching Techniques in the Seminary. Her present address is: 14 Paul Drive, Texarkana, Texas 75501.

1972 ABA Yearbook

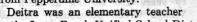


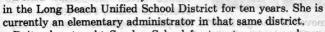
JEANIE CASH writes the Beginner Sunday School materials. She was saved at camp at a young age and was baptized by her father, Roy M. Reed. She graduated from Bellflower, CA, High School and obtained a B.A. from Whittier College in Whitier, California, with a major in sociology. Jeanie did Graduate work at Whittier College and the University of California at Long Beach. She is co-writing this literature with Deitra Reed and Gail Burch. Deitra is a

graduate of the University of California at Long Beach with a major in history. Her graduate work in education is also from the University of California at Long Beach. Gail Burch is the wife of a deacon, Tim Burch, and the mother of two children. She graduated with a major in music from the University of California at Dominguez Hills and did graduate work in education at the same school. All three of these young ladies have a deep burden for the children's work in our churches. Jeanie's address is 9617 Compton Blvd., Bellflower, CA 90706.

1972 ABA Yearbook

DEITRA REED is co-writer for the Kindergarten and Beginner Sunday School materials. Deitra attended Biola College and Long Beach State University for her undergraduate work. Her teaching credential was obtained from California State University in Hayward. She did graduate work at California State University of Long Beach, and recently obtained her Master's Degree in Education from Pepperdine University.





Deitra has taught Sunday School for twenty years, and currently teaches the primary class in the First Missionary Baptist Church of Bellflower. She is the church organist and co-ordinator of many children's activities in the church.

She has two children: Mark, age 10 and Donna, age 6. Her husband, Timothy, is a deacon in the church, and they are both serving as Youth Directors.

1978 ABA Yearbook



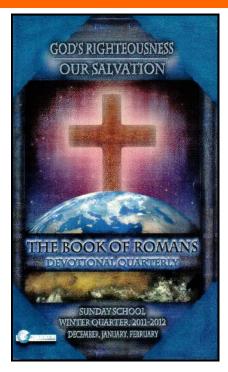
2010 ABA Minutes Photo

1982 ABA Yearbook

Since 1955 Mary has written Sunday School lessons for the American Baptist Association. Recently, she has written a part of the Daily Devotionals published quarterly in Texarkana, Arkansas / Texas. Here to speak a few words is her recent Editor in Chief, Dr. Larry Clements.

Sister Mary went to be with the Lord on January 14, 2012.

From the Files of Robert W. Cullifer ABA BSSC—Writers, Mary McCalister



Sample Devotional—Below

Galatians 3:26, 27

Monday, December 19

Baptism—Putting on Christ

KEY VERSE: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ," Galatians 3:27.

What is baptism? It is the first step of obedience the believer must take. Jesus said of His own baptism, it was to "fulfil all righteousness" (Matt. 3:15). Why do believers have trouble taking this step?

We eat our share of forbidden fruit. We say what we should not say. We go where we should not go. We pluck fruit from trees which are forbidden.

When we do, the door opens and shame tumbles in, and we hide. Instead of taking the first step of obedience, we cover ourselves in good works and good deeds. With one gust of truth, the wind (Holy Spirit) blows away our cover, and we are naked in our own failure.

What does God do? He offers the life of His Son. We hide. He seeks. We bring sin. He brings a sacrifice. He brings the robe of righteousness.

When we take the first step of obedience, we realize in doing so we are testifying to the world that we have put on Christ. We are giving a public testimony that we are in Christ, and Christ is in us.

LIVING IT: Sanctify your life and be obedient to God.

Mary McCalister

She also wrote a column for the California Missionary Baptist entitled **For Little Lambs.** Sample below is from the May 1957 Issue.

For Little Children

God Provides Salvation

By Mary McCalister

Mother Stewart continued the story of Adam and Eve and their sin in the Garden of Eden. They had just partaken of the forbidden fruit, and were fearful of what God would do to them.

"God came to visit them," Mrs. Stewart went on, "Just as He had always done; and they tried to hide from Him. They sewed fig leaves together and made clothes for themselves, and then hid behind the trees. Adam and Eve may have grown wiser in some ways, when they ate the forbidden fruit, but they had forgotten that they could not hide from God. God is able to see everything, and knows everything we do.

"God called to Adam and Eve, and asked, 'Adam, where are you?'

"Adam answered, 'I heard you, and I was afraid, so I hid myself. I was ashamed of my nakedness.'

"How did you know you were naked? Did you eat of the tree that was forbidden?' asked God.

"Adam was afraid to take all the blame for himself, so he told God that Eve had given him some of the fruit to eat. He tried to put all the blame on her. When God asked Eve about it, she tried to put all the blame on the serpent. We are just like that today. We are all sinners because Adam and Eve ate of the tree and disobeyed God, and we get the nature of sin from our parents, but when we find out that we are sinners, we try to hide our sins by doing good works and making people think we are good. That does not fool God though, because He can see that our souls are still sinful. We cannot be with God if our souls are sinful, and we cannot do anything to remove that sin. God gave His Son, Jesus Christ, who suffered on the cross, to fix it so that we could be with God and have fellwship with Him. Now we must trust Christ and accept the blood He shed as the payment for our sinfulness.

"That is why God killed animals to make clothes for Adam and Eve. He was showing them that the blood of someone who had not sinned would have to be shed to hide their sins. Adam and Eve tried to hide their sin with their own works, or the fig leaves, but it did no good.

"When Eve pointed to the serpent and said that he had tempted her, God turned to the serpent and said, 'I shall curse you more than all the other animals. You cannot walk upon legs, but I shall make you crawl on your belly, and you will eat of the dirt you crawl on.'

"Then God talked to Satan, who was in the serpent. 'Some day someone will come who will conquer you, but first you will hurt him.' This was a prophecy of the coming of Christ, and a promise that Christ would overcome Satan. But first Satan would hurt Him, and he did when Christ was crucified. Christ was able to emerge victorious, though, when He arose from the grave.

"After God had cursed the

"After God had cursed the serpent and Satan, He turned to Adam and Eve and cursed them for their disobedience. First, He said that the woman would bear children in sorrow, and that she was to be in subjection to her husband, or do what he told her to do. He said that the ground would be cursed, and that thorns and thistles would grow. These had not been there before to mar the beauty of the world. God told Adam that he would have to work and sweat to get food for him and his family.

"Worst of all, God put the couple out of the beautiful garden, because in it grew the tree of life. If they had eaten of it, they would have lived in their terrible condition forever. God put angels with a flaming sword to guard the tree of life and the garden.

"Our story has a sad ending tonight, doesn't it? Sin always brings sadness and sorrow, but God, our heavenly Father, is always willing to forgive us, if we'll ask 'Him to. Let us never forget to ask God to forgive our sins, and to ask others to forgive us if we do things that are wrong."

From the Files of Robert W. Cullifer Baptist Press Writers—Ruth Burnes, Ph. D.

Missionary Baptist Herald Fresno, California

THE CROSSROAD OF DECISION

Ruth 1 - 4

INTRODUCTION: Since the Sunday School lessons in the ABA literature last quarter included the Book of Ruth, this account is fresh on the minds of most of the readers; however, in contemplating on a subject for this article, it seems that this one, "The Crossroad of Decision," in the Book of Ruth stayed on my mind. background of this account is very familiar -- how that Naomi, her husband, and her two sons left their home in Bethlehem because of the great famine in the land and settled in the heathen and idolatrous land of Moab. While there, the two sons took Moabite wives, Orpah In time, Naomi's and Ruth. husband died, and sometime later. her two sons also died, leaving a widowed mother with two daughters-in-law and no means to provide for herself or for them. What must she do? Naomi decided to return home where, no doubt, the famine had long since diminished. Having made the decision, knowing that she had no hope to offer her daughters-in-law, she urged them to go back to their own people who could provide a living for them and where they could find husbands. Both Orpah and Ruth, loving Naomi as they did, wept and said, "We will return with thee unto thy people." Again Naomi urged them to return to their own people. Space does not permit a detailed acounting of Ruth's life, so emphasis in this writing is placed on the decision that Ruth made versus the one that Orpah made.

Finally, after Naomi insisted that she had no means of caring for them, Orpah wept and kissed Naomi and made her decision to return to her people — and back to their way of life. From that decision on, nothing more is known of Orpah. But Ruth steadfastly determined to return with Naomi saying, "... whither thou goest, I will go; where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God, my God."

Ruth made her decision!

After arriving in Bethlehem, Ruth went out into the fields to glean, and as God would have it, she gleaned in the field of Boaz, who was Naomi's kindred by marriage. Boaz, having heard of Ruth's leaving family and homeland and cleaving unto Naomi, watched over and protected Ruth, providing extra grain for her to glean.

In time, Boaz took Ruth to be his wife, and they had a son, Obed, who was the grandfather of David. Thus, Ruth was the greatgrandmother of David and the ancestress of Jesus, the Saviour of the world! Ruth also has the distinction of being listed in the genealogy of Christ.

So the crossroad of decision came to two young women --Orpah and Ruth. Orpah made her decision to return to her people and their gods and, therefore, passed into obscurity. Ruth chose to return to Bethlehem with Naomi and chose the people of God and their God as her own. So Ruth made her decision, she worked and cared for Naomi, and God rewarded her by giving her a godly husband and making her an ancestress of the coming Messiah. Truly, Ruth made a wise decision!

Each child of God faces crossroads of decision at one time or another. The decisions they make are of utmost importance. The wise decisions will always include God and His will for their lives.

Ruth made the wise choice: she turned to God! But she didn't stop there. She worked, and she was rewarded, not only in this life, but she will be rewarded greatly when she stands at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Children of God have also made wise choices when they turned to God. But they must not stop there, but, as Ruth did, work and lay up treasures for eternity. They must make the wise choices when they come to the CROSSROAD OF DECISION!

March, 1993

Women's Corner Samples

WOMEN'S CORNER

by

Ruth Burnes, Ph.D



THE TOMB IS EMPTY!

INTRODUCTION: The angel announced, "He is not here; he is risen!" Simple words, but oh, how glorious! He is alive today; the tomb is empty; and that is the glory of the gospel! Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to redeem sinful man. He lived on the earth, died the cruel death on the cross—finishing the work of redemption—was buried, and rose again just as He said He would do. And He ascended back to His Father and there today lives to make intercession for His own. The tomb is empty!

God always had a plan to redeem In His infinite sinful man. knowledge, He knew that man would sin and fall from his sinless state. And so the plan to redeem him was formulated long before man existed. It was the plan of God that His Son, Jesus, would die, taking upon Himself the sin of the world, so that man would have a Savior. Revelation 13:8 states that He was "slain from the foundation of the world." Jesus was the only One qualified to make the sacrifice for man, for He was the only One Who had no sin. The sacrificial lamb must be one without blemish. Sinful man could not make the sacrifice because he was sinful. Only the sinless Son of God qualified. And He made that ultimate sacrifice

on the cross of Calvary.

The weight placed upon Jesus that horrendous day was heavy beyond comprehension because the weight of sin for all sinful mankind was unsurmountable. And Jesus bore it all—even forsaken by His Father who could not look upon His Son. And the world turned dark—black as night—for the Light of the world had gone out when He died at Calvary. All this for mankind! Oh, what a Savior!

And Jesus was buried in a borrowed tomb. A huge stone was rolled upon the door of the tomb. It appeared that Satan was victorious. But death could not conquer Him! The tomb could not hold Him! The devil could not subdue Him! Jesus arose from the dead. The stone upon the entrance of the tomb remained in place. The grave clothes lay undisturbed inside the tomb. But Jesus was not there. He was risen, proving that He was more powerful than sin and death—more powerful than sin and death—more powerful than all the evil forces of Satan!

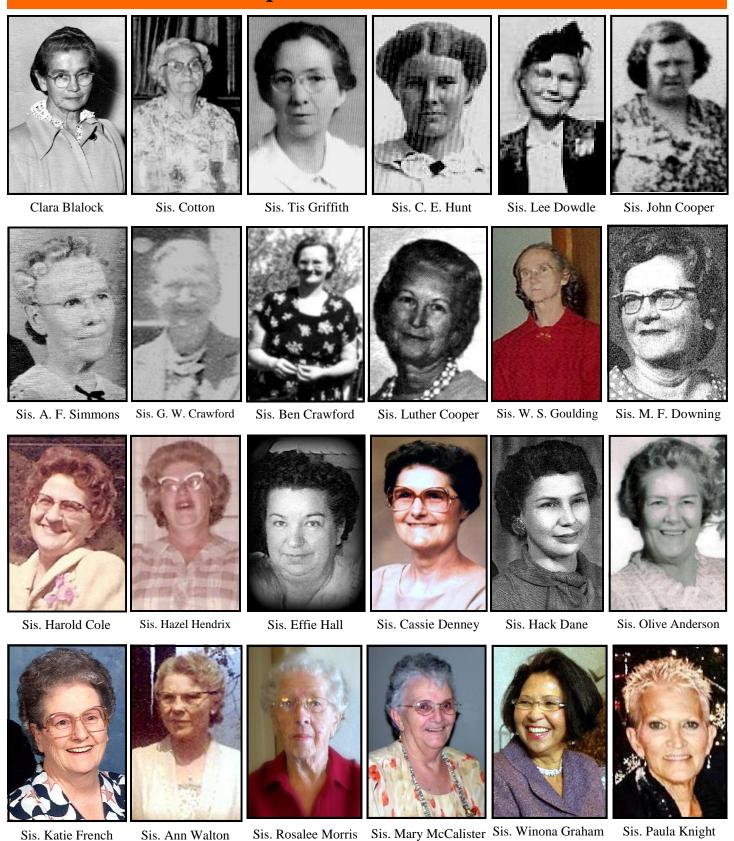
Redemption for fallen man was completed. Jesus died for the sin of mankind. He arose for man's justification. He is the Savior of mankind!

Today sinners can find this Savior simply by trusting Him as Savior, repenting of their sins. No one is exempt from salvation. The scripture says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life," John 3:16. Salvation is available to every person. All he has to do is call upon the name of the Lord, repenting of his sins. The "whosoever" is anyone who will ask Christ into his heart.

Yes, we serve a risen Savior. He lives! He lives forever more!

THE TOMB IS EMPTY!

March—April, 1998



13

Sis. Katie French

Sis. Ann Walton

Sis. Paula Knight





Sis. Billie Richardson



Sis. LaDean Paslay



Sis. Betty Jo Keeling



Sis. Lorneva Pack



Sis. Veda Robertson



Sis. Joyce Williams



Sis. Janice Ross



Sis. Lovanna Woolley



Sis. Jan Perdue



Sis. Helen Hernandez



Sis. Gail (Scott) Barger



Lisa Keeling & Deb Cullifer



Sis. Debby Butimore



Sis. Debby Miller



Sis. Teresa Lopiccolo



Sis. Rosie Gurnett



Sis. Kathryn Olson



Sis. Deanna Bailey



Sis. Lily Wood



Sis. Francis McClung



Sis. Earla Bowline



Sis. Bobbi Rachel



Sisters Loyce Corcoran, Ruth Burnes & Billie Frakes



Sisters Lisa Hooper & Esther Thiem



A Few of the Ladies of the Oakdale Church



Sisters of the Mt. Olive—Stockton Church



Porterville Kitchen Workers in Porterville

CMBI Extension School—Cypress Missionary Baptist Church Sacramento





















1973 CMBI Yearbook Photos





1974 CMBI Yearbook Photos





1974 CMBI Yearbook Photos



There are many more wonderful Ladies yet to be added.....

50 Questions for Oral History Interviews

A great way to uncover clues to your family history or to get great quotes for journaling in a heritage scrapbook is a family interview. By asking the right, open-ended questions, you're sure to collect a wealth of family tales. Use this list of family history interview questions to help you get started, but be sure to personalize the interview with your own questions as well.

Note: These questions can also be used in preparing Biographical Sketches of the Ladies of our churches. Granted, some of these will need modification, but they certainly form a basis for questioning our church sisters.

- 1. What is your full name? Why did your parents select this name for you? Did you have a nickname?
- 2. When and where were you born?
- 3. How did your family come to live there?
- 4. Were there other family members in the area? Who?
- 5. What was the house (apartment, farm, etc.) like? How many rooms? Bathrooms? Did it have electricity? Indoor plumbing? Telephones?
- 6. Were there any special items in the house that you remember?
- 7. What is your earliest childhood memory?
- 8.Describe the personalities of your family members.
- 9. What kind of games did you play growing up?
- 10. What was your favorite toy and why?
- 11. What was your favorite thing to do for fun (movies, beach, etc.)?
- 12.Did you have family chores? What were they? Which was your least favorite?
- 13.Did you receive an allowance? How much? Did you save your money or spend it?
- 14. What was school like for you as a child? What were your best and worst subjects? Where did you attend grade school? High school? College?
- 15. What school activities and sports did you participate in?
- 16.Do you remember any fads from your youth? Popular hairstyles? Clothes?
- 17. Who were your childhood heroes?
- 18. What were your favorite songs and music?
- 19. Did you have any pets? If so, what kind and what were their names?
- 20. What was your religion growing up? What church, if any, did you attend?
- 21. Were you ever mentioned in a newspaper?
- 22. Who were your friends when you were growing up?
- 23. What world events had the most impact on you while you were growing up? Did any of them personally affect your family?
- 24.Describe a typical family dinner. Did you all eat together as a family? Who did the cooking? What were your favorite foods?
- 25. How were holidays (birthdays, Christmas, etc.) celebrated in your family? Did your family have special traditions?
- 26. How is the world today different from what it was like when you were a child?
- 27. Who was the oldest relative you remember as a child? What do you remember about them?
- 28. What do you know about your family surname?
- 29.Is there a naming tradition in your family, such as always giving the firstborn son the name of his paternal grandfather?
- 30. What stories have come down to you about your parents? Grandparents? More distant ancestors?
- 31. Are there any stories about famous or infamous relatives in your family?
- 32. Have any recipes been passed down to you from family members?

50 Questions for Oral History Interviews

- 33. Are there any physical characteristics that run in your family?
- 34. Are there any special heirlooms, photos, bibles or other memorabilia that have been passed down in your family?
- 35. What was the full name of your spouse? Siblings? Parents?
- 36. When and how did you meet your spouse? What did you do on dates?
- 37. What was it like when you proposed (or were proposed to)? Where and when did it happen? How did you feel?
- 38. Where and when did you get married?
- 39. What memory stands out the most from your wedding day?
- 40. How would you describe your spouse? What do (did) you admire most about them?
- 41. What do you believe is the key to a successful marriage?
- 42. How did you find out your were going to be a parent for the first time?
- 43. Why did you choose your children's names?
- 44. What was your proudest moment as a parent?
- 45. What did your family enjoy doing together?
- 46. What was your profession and how did you choose it?
- 47. If you could have had any other profession what would it have been? Why wasn't it your first choice?
- 48.Of all the things you learned from your parents, which do you feel was the most valuable?
- 49. What accomplishments were you the most proud of?
- 50. What is the one thing you most want people to remember about you?

Source: http://genealogy.about.com/cs/oralhistory/a/interview.htm

"A great way to uncover clues to your family history or to get great quotes for journaling in a heritage scrapbook is a family interview. By asking the right, open-ended questions, you're sure to collect a wealth of family tales. Use this list of family history interview questions to help you get started, but be sure to personalize the interview with your own questions as well.

For more family history interview tips, see How to Interview a Relative....."



The History & Archives Committee of the Cooperative Association of California is always looking to increase its Photo Collection.

You can help by submitting photos of:

- * Pastors
- * Deacons
- * Ladies Auxiliary Leaders
 - * Church Buildings
 - * Church Events

If Not YOU, Then WHO?

Send to: Lbfolsom @aol.com