

LANDMARK BAPTIST HISTORIAN

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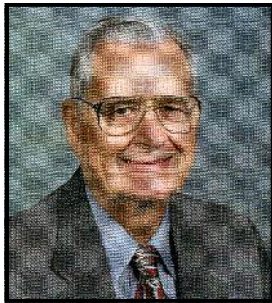
Volume 6 ~ Number 2

"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." Deuteronomy 32: 7

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In Loving Memory



Dr. June W. Godbehere, Th.D.

January 25, 1926 to June 5, 2016

—Obituary—

On Sunday, June 5, 2016, Dr. June Wilton Godbehere, TH. D., Loving husband and father went home to be with our Lord and Savior at the age of 93.

June will be cherished and remembered by his loving wife of 71 1/2 years, Marcketa "Mickey" Godbehere, his daughter Twyla Godbehere Thibeault and his son-in-law Michael Scott Thibeault.

June was born in Chickasaw, Oklahoma on January 25, 1923 to James and Mary Godbehere. He is preceded in death by his parents and his two sisters, Mae Russey and Viola Frederick.

After graduating from North Texas Agriculture College in Arlington, TX he entered the U.S. Navy in

Continued Next Column

1942 after the Pearl Harbor attacks. He served in the Pacific on the USS Independence. While serving in the Navy, he met the love of his life, Mickey, and they were married in 1945.

After both June and Mickey were honorably discharged from the service, in 1950, June was saved after attending Mother's Day services at Fifth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Marlow, OK, and both joined Beacon Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, TX. In 1952, June surrendered to preach and moved to Tulsa, OK, where he began attending seminary at Turley, OK and later moved to Marlow and attended Oklahoma Missionary Baptist Institute. He was ordained by the Fifth Street Missionary Baptist Church of Marlow, OK in 1955 beginning a ministry of over 61 years. June received a Graduate in Bible Language, Bachelor of Theology, Master of Theology, and Doctor of Theology from OMBI. After graduating, he also was a teacher at OMBI in Marlow, OK.

Dr. Godbehere pastored the following churches: Valley View Missionary Baptist Church, Valley View, OK, Bray Missionary Baptist Church, Bray, OK, Harmony Missionary Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, OK, Central Missionary Baptist Church, Wasco, CA, First Missionary Baptist Church, Lomita, CA, Valley Missionary Baptist Church, Reseda, CA, First Missionary Baptist Church, Santa Rosa, CA, Interim Pastor at First Missionary Baptist, Fresno, CA and finally pastor at Oildale Missionary Baptist Church, Oildale, CA.

June and Mickey's daughter, Twyla, was born in 1957 in Marlow, OK and she was the "light of his life" and daddy's girl. In 1979, Twyla met Michael Thibeault and they were honored to have dad perform their ceremony. Michael became the "son" that June never had and "dad" became the father that Michael had missed since his own father passed when he was 13. This family unit of June, Mickey, Twyla & Michael had a very special relationship through the years. When Michael was saved in 1980 in Martinez, CA, he was honored to have June perform the baptism.

While still pastoring in California, he taught at CMBI (California Missionary Baptist Institute in Bellflower, CA) and later at FMBI (Fresno Missionary Baptist Institute in Fresno, CA) where he was Administrative Vice President, Dean Of Student Affairs, editor of the FMBI Missionary Baptist Herald and a member of the faculty. After retiring from pastoring, June and Mickey joined Fresno Missionary Baptist Church in 1988 serving faithfully for 28 years. While he retired from teaching at FMBI in 2008, he continued to spend 2-3 hours each day writing books on Acts, Genesis, Revelation, John, Jeremiah, Ministerial Practicalities to name a few, as well as, sermons, study aids and articles.

June touch the lives of any people over the years and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Celebrating June Godbehere

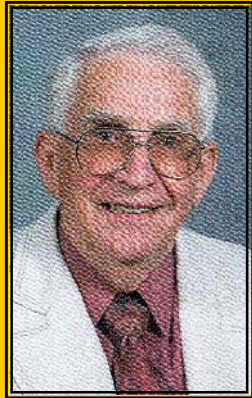
Saturday, June 25, 2016

Fresno Missionary Baptist Church

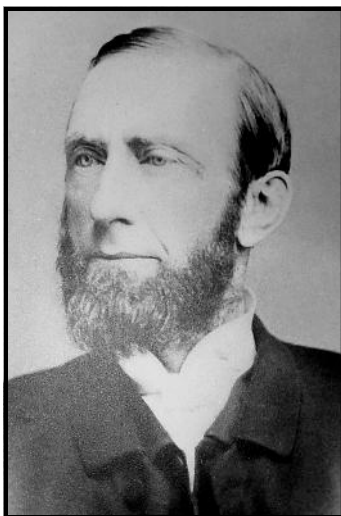
Thank you Sis. Mickey for mailing the Memorial Brochure, from which this Obituary was taken. Editor

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Luther Douglas Perdue
April 3, 1926—July 14, 2016



Celebration of Life
At Liberty MBC—Modesto
August 6, 2016
At 11:00 AM



J. W. Capen
Cullifer Photo Archives

1851 Circular Letter Of the San Francisco Baptist Association

Circular Letter.

DEAR BRETHREN, - In sending you our first circular letter, we do not know of a more important subject than *the necessity of a high standard of personal piety*.

By piety we mean devotion to the service of God.

Many professing to be Christians, are satisfied with what they suppose to be sufficient piety to give them reason for believing that they shall be saved in a future world. They perform as few of the duties of religion as they can consistently with this object. These persons enjoy the world much, but have little relish for spiritual enjoyments

Others are more conscientious, and while they are more frequent and prompt in the discharge of duty, they appear to be goaded by the stings of conscience rather than urged by the impulses of love. They aim at nothing more than to satisfy the dictates of a conscience which has been educated more through the circumstances of their lives than by the efforts of their wills.

Such persons, it is evident, can make only limited attainments in piety, and they will exhibit a continued fluctuation as conscience slumbers or is aroused by truth and the providences of God. The amount of good such persons accomplish is also comparatively small. Great attainments cannot be made in any pursuits, unless the standard is high.

No scholar ever climbs the hill of knowledge without first scanning the heights above him. Then he pushes forward with Excelsior for his motto. No statesman attains a commanding position without a long struggle to reach the elevation he had ever kept in his eye. The same is true of the mechanic and the merchant.

But the reasons which should induce every Christian to keep an elevated standard before him are more numerous and weighty than those which can be produced for any other object. They are motives which derive their influence not only from the present world, but also the world to come, not only from a reference to ourselves but also to our fellow-men, to angels and to God.

It is evident that *by high* attainments in piety, we can secure to ourselves the greatest amount of personal enjoyment.

It is certainly desirable to make our passage through life as pleasant as possible. All men intuitively shrink from pain and seek pleasure; but *sensual* gratifications are not only transient and frequently followed by satiety and loathing, but belong to the animal.

Intellectual pleasures also are elevating and worthy to be sought for and enjoyed, but they are much greater when found united with piety, as in Newton, Locke and Pascal.

Social pleasures also are to be sought for and enjoyed, but they are purer and freed from the fears of separation, when we can be assured that we shall be re-united with our friends in another state, and then shall recall our united devotion to God while together on earth.

It is a pleasure to receive the approbation of men for what is worthy and good in ourselves; but it is a much greater pleasure to receive the approbation of God. *Riches* give to men the power of securing the gratification of their wishes, but when the wishes of the heart are blended with God's wishes, then the Christian receives from God himself the gratification of his desires.

With high attainments in piety, we secure a more perfect knowledge of God, and then become more like him. The passions are more constantly controlled, and we are preserved from a multitude of evils which we are liable to experience if we have not to defend us the walls which devotedness to God erects around us.

When we have committed any flagrant sin and have thus embittered our lives and stained indelibly our characters, how severe have been our reproaches for our previous negligence. In one day, while we are thus living unguarded by a vigilant piety, we may yield to temptations that shall in a great degree disqualify us for future usefulness, and diminish our capacity for happiness. *No* Christian is safe for a *day* who does not aim to do heartily the will of God.

Continued on page 3

1851 Circular Letter—Continued

J. W. Capen

Continued from page 2

Without great attainments we cannot accomplish much for Zion. Zion, the church of Christ, ought to be an object of ardent love to every true Christian. She is the city of the living God and the home of the saint, the abode of the good and great of every age. Her walls are to be built up, and everywhere labor is needed upon her towers and bulwarks. The stones we may contribute will be lasting memorials of our devotion to her welfare, and the higher our attainments the greater will be our efforts and our success in her behalf. Thus high attainments in piety will prepare us to secure to ourselves the greatest happiness in Heaven.

In any department of life no man can expect to receive more than his qualifications will enable him to secure. Neither can a Christian. If he would have an abundant stock in treasury of Heaven he must labor for it, and if he would have great results from his labor he must have high qualifications to direct his energies. But high qualifications cannot be secured unless the standard of piety is high.

Wesley, Whitefield, Edwards, Robert Hall, and Payson, aimed high. The result of their efforts are everywhere known. While the world exists they will not cease to be felt, and in Heaven the fruits of their aims and attainments will be to them an everlasting source of joy.

Alexander, Caesar, and Napoleon aimed high, but it was a height confined to earth. The elevation at which the Christian should aim is as much above this as Heaven is above earth. The Christian should aim to know and to do all the will of God. By a hearty devotion of himself and all his powers to God, he will secure the highest glory to himself and to God. He will then find in humility the greatest exaltation, in the self-denial that duty calls for, the greatest enjoyment, and in sacrifices for God the greatest riches.

Many suppose that in peculiar circumstances by which we are surrounded in this country, they cannot be expected to do more than to sustain a respectable character. They have no disposition to go forward and climb upward in the Christian life. Yet we see, that it is not only their duty to do so, but that they are immensely losers by the course they are pursuing. If they succeed in getting present riches they lose eternal.

If they withhold exertion, they find the strength of the current of worldliness is sweeping them down with great rapidity. If the relax watchfulness they will speedily find, as hundreds have already found, that the snags which Satan has prepared expressly for them, are numerous and formidable. They will be wrecked ere they are aware.

Let us therefore, in conclusion, urge every Christian to aim high, - to strive to make great attainments in piety.

All design consistently with righteousness to make as great acquisitions in wealth as possible. Let piety be placed above wealth. Let the additions to the one be made daily, like those to the other. God requires this of us, it is our duty. Heaven invites us to it, it will increase its joy. Christ enjoins it upon us, His love should constrain us to it.

And finally, a regard to our eternal happiness should stimulate us, for it will be thus increased.

Pages 17—19
Of the Minutes

Tabular View and Sunday School Statistics for the San Francisco Baptist Association

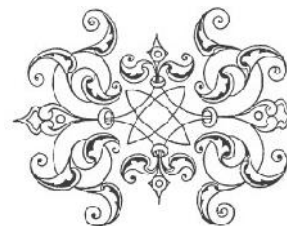
The letters from the Churches were then read, [see appendix A] showing the following statistics:—

TABULAR VIEW OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The names of ordained Ministers are in **SMALL CAPS**; those of licentiate Ministers in *italics*; Bap. for baptized; Led. received by letter; Ex. received by experience; Dis. dismissed by letter; Exc. excluded; Dec. deceased; Tot. total; Con. when constituted; * not present.

CHURCHES AND CLERKS.	MINISTERS AND OTHER DELEGATES.	STATISTICAL CHANGES.							
		Bap.	Led.	Ex.	Dis.	Exc.	Dec.	Tot. ad.	Con.
San Francisco. J. F. Pops.	O. C. WHEELER,								
	E. B. FESVACK,								
	<i>J. T. Marshall,</i>								
	C. L. ROSE,	1	15	2	6		1	55	1849
	J. H. COGHILL, DAN'L WOOD, JR.*								
San Jose, James Appleton.	L. O. GREENELL,								
	James Appleton,*	4	7	4	10			18	1850
	<i>Ma'hew Talbot,*</i> Samuel Appleton,*								
Sacramento City. E. J. Willis.	BENJ. BEERLY,								
	JAMES W. CAPEN,								
	M. D. NOLAN,	1	8					24	1850
	B. J. WILLIS, J. A. WADSWORTH, Joel Ball.								

SAN FRANCISCO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.											
SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS.											
CHURCHES.	Superin- tendents.	Secrta- ries.	Librarians	Males Teachers.	Females Teachers.	White Scholars.	Female Scholars.	No. in B. P. Class.	Total.	Valued in Library.	REMARKS.
San Francisco											
H. E. Lincoln,	1	1	1	7	4	30	40	12	96	200	The School in S. F. has ordered and are expecting an addition of 700 vols.
San Jose.											
James Appleton,	1			3	3	10			37	100	The Sec'y of this Sch. is also Librarian and Secretary.
Sacramento City.											
E. J. Willis,	1			1		3	7	16	27	300	This School is yet in its entire infancy.



Circular Letter

1729 Philadelphia Baptist Association

The elders and messengers of the baptized congregations in Pennsylvania and the Jerseys, met at Philadelphia, Sept. 27th and 28th, 1729, in a solemn Association, sendeth greeting: —

Dearly beloved brethren in the Lord Jesus Christ: — We heartily rejoice to see your care, diligence, requests and desires, on our own behalf, at the throne of grace; and also your care and diligence in maintaining our yearly correspondence and communion in the gospel. We, your representatives, met together in love, perused your letters and gladly received your messengers. We find cause to rejoice that God has crowned the labors of his ministers with such success. There have been considerable additions the past year, in several churches, and some in most. Praise be rendered to our gracious God, we find the churches generally to be at peace and unity among themselves. We think it expedient to give you an account of our proceedings. We conferred together, without any jars or contentions in our debates; our souls have been refreshed, hearing of the welfare of the churches in general; also in hearing the sweet and comfortable truths of the gospel declared among us by the faithful labors of our ministering brethren, which we hope is to the glory of God and the good of souls. We earnestly desire you to walk worthy of your holy vocation, standing fast and striving together for the faith of the gospel. It is the general complaint of many that there is much lukewarmness and deadness in matters of religion, which we hope is not a mere compliment, but rather the grief of the churches. In order to remedy this soul distemper, our advice and desire is that you be diligent to keep your places in the house of God; be frequent and instant in prayer, both in secret and in public; strive after the life and power of religion; make religion your earnest business; keep your garments undefiled from the world; walk as becomes saints before God and men; improve your opportunities in all religious duties, both among your families and in the church. Stand fast for the defending and maintaining of the ordinances of Christ; wait on God in them, that you may reap the benefit of Christ by them. Strive to keep together, maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; always resisting the assaults of Satan, who waiteth opportunities to disturb the peace of God's children. Be careful that you do nothing that may tend to breed disturbances in the church of God.

Query from the church at Philadelphia. Suppose a gifted brother, who is esteemed an orderly minister by or among those that are against the laying on of hands in any respect, should happen to come among our church; whether we may allow such an one to administer the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper or no?

Answered in the negative; because it is contrary to the rule of God's word: see Acts xiii. 2, 3; and xiv. 23: compared with Titus i. 5; 1 Tim. iv. 14; from which prescribed rules we dare not swerve. We also refer to the Confession of faith, chap. xxvii., sect. 9.

The messengers shall meet on the sixth day of the week, at the time before appointed, by 2 o'clock, P. M., to consider the affairs of the churches.

Agreed, that a sermon be preached on the seventh day, in the afternoon, as usual; — first day, a sermon to be preached in the morning, and another in the afternoon, with the administration of the Lord's supper;— on the second day of the week, a concluding sermon in the forenoon. Mr. Jones and Mr. Holmes shall send a letter to Mr. Walden and Mr. Hollis, in London, in order to maintain a Christian correspondence.

Commending you to God and the word of his grace,
Your brethren, in the best of bonds,

Jno. David, Ben. Stelle, Owen Thomas,
Geo. Hugh, Gershom Mott, Joseph Eaton,
Jno. Devonald, John Welledge, Wm. Kinnersley,
Saml. Osgood, John Clarkson, John Holmes,
Jeremiah Kollet, Jno. Bartholomew, John Heart,
Robt. Chalfant, Elisha Thomas, George Eaton.

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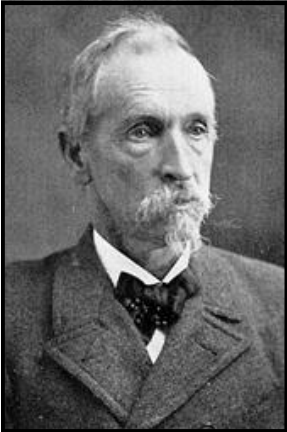
[From Philadelphia Baptist Association Minutes, 1729. — *Jim Duvall*]

Source: http://www.oocities.org/baptist_documents/pennsylvania.cl.index.html

**Fourteenth Anniversary Clear Lake Baptist Association
CIRCULAR LETTER by J. S. Ross**

**Fourteenth Anniversary Clear Lake Baptist Association
October 12 & 13, 1883**

**CIRCULAR LETTER
John Simpson Ross**



**Image From The
Cullifer Photo Archive**

To the Churches of the Clear Lake Association,

DEAR BRETHREN: We hail this Fourteenth anniversary with profound gratitude and praise. We devoutly thank God that so many of the fathers and mothers are still spared among us. We would call your attention, brethren, to the moral destitution that prevails within the bounds of the Association. These years have wrought a material change in greatly increasing our population and abundantly multiplying the wealth of our country. The cause of Christ in the work of grace have made a little progress. The present outlook reads to us a serious alarm. Our churches are languishing. They lack that spiritual life and activity that indicates a healthy growth. Some are even falling into the decay, their members drifting loose into the world, or else they are being absorbed into other bodies. The ministerial force on the field has not been so weak since the association was organized as at present. In view of these sad indication, it behooves us now to search our hearts, try our ways and humble ourselves before God. There must be a cause why these things are so. It becomes a matter of solemn inquiry, where lies the blame? Are we not guilty as association, as churches and as individuals? Do we not find things just as we might expect? Have we employed means, put forth effort expended labor to bring about different results? What anxieties and disturbed your peace; what prayerful watchings have occupied our minds and enlisted our sympathies in behalf of the dying perishing around us? What diligence have we exercised, with sacrifices have we made, and what personal interest

have we manifested? Is it not too true that we have sadly neglected our trust and left the Lord's work uncared for? The Lord has only promise success where exertion is put forth in means employed. There are no harvests gathered unless of soil is worked and the seed sown. We have been unfaithful and now we experience leanness of the soul.

At each annual session this Association has discussed missionary work, and yet never sent out a missionary more than a few months into the field. Last year and unusual interest seemed to be awakened, and quite a liberal contribution which made to sustain missionary labor. Part of the money was paid and still remains of the Treasurer. No missionary was employed.

Brethren, spasmodic zeal displayed once a year at Association gatherings, dies out there and accomplishes nothing. Our money will never change the moral aspect of the field unless we pray for its success, watch for its prosperity and work for spiritual improvement.

If we would succeed and prosper, enjoy spiritual life, see our churches built up, our fellow men saved and the world blessed we must work earnestly to bring about. If we would have existence as churches and a denomination, then the principles that distinguish us the must find a practical demonstration in the lives of our people. No creed, however sound and scriptural, however firmly believed and tenaciously held can serve us for "a faith which works by love". We are called out from the world to fulfill a mission on its behalf. The work of the church never diminishes either in magnitude or importance. She must strive continually for the ingathering of souls in the general amelioration and welfare of mankind. The power and efficiency of the church depends on the spirituality, purity, and activity of her membership through which her work is accomplished. Each is a unit to do it's on part. We must act in our own respective spheres according to the measure of our ability. We are personally responsible for the charge God has given us. We must consecrate ourselves individually anew to the work and gird ourselves afresh for the conflict. Let our influence tell in the power of our example witness for Christ. We let our individual integrity, consistency, holiness of life in purity of conduct impress observers and convince gainsayers. Life above reproach cannot fail to commend itself and incite to imitation. Our energies, means, prayers and talents must all be enlisted in this life work. The toilers eventually win. They only succeed who try. Those who sow in tears shall reap and rejoice. God honors those who patiently persevere and faint not.

Your brother in all sincerity,
J. S. Ross

From pages 12 & 13 of the 1883 Minutes

**From the Evangel—August 2, 1860
The Field—Number One**

THE EVANGEL.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.
A RELIGIOUS NEWSPAPER,
PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY
BY D. B. CHENEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

August 2, 1860. Vol. 3—Num. 10

For the Evangel.

The Field

—
No. 1.

The field of Christian enterprise "is the world." There is to be no cessation of labor till "all nations" become the disciples of Christ, and "observe his ordinances and commandments to do them." But God, in his providence, has placed us in California, and says "occupied till I come." This is our portion of the field, and it is worthy of the profound and earnest study of all who intend to labor here. The intelligent farmer, who wishes to cultivate his fields to the greatest possible advantage, studies the nature of their soils, their adaptation to certain crops, their exposure to the sun, and other climatic influences. So the Christian laborer should study all the peculiarities of his field—its advantages and disadvantages, and then skillfully employ the means to obtain the best results.

The position of this field, in relation to the great empires of Asia and the vast population of the islands of the Pacific and Southern Oceans, is preeminently commanding. The churches of the eastern States have had but a limited influence on the moral and religious condition of the population of Europe; their great aim has been to reach the Asiatic nations. This has been done to some extent, at great expense of money, time, health and life. But these distant nations are now our neighbors; commercial relations are being established; mutual acquaintance and friendships are being formed, and in the course of a few years, they will they will be within twenty-five or thirty days of our Christian institutions and Christian homes. What position on earth more commanding than ours? What Christian people were ever brought so near the great missionary field of the earth—to more than six hundred million of the human family, without God and without hope! Here, on this coast the great Christian light-house is to be erected, that shall throw its brilliant and immortal raise into the very centre of Asiatic of paganism, and guide whole empires to life and immortality. From the schools and universities of this land, the educators and regenerators of surrounding nations will go forth, till millions after millions become redeemed from sin and misery, and join in the one cry, "Worthy is the Lamb." Such a portion as this, no Christian people ever occupied. May we be worthy of it!

What an incentive to labor for the evangelization of this land, so preeminently favored of God! What an honor to be permitted to lay the foundations of Christian churches, and institutions that are destined by Providence to have such a far-reaching influence, in securing the salvation of the greater portion of the human race!

C.R.H.

Rev. C. R. Hendrickson, Pastor of the Sonora Church

Transcription using Dragon: Naturally Speaking Software.

June 18, 2016.

—RWC, Editor

Why The "Old" Association From The Western Baptist—May, 1967

Western Baptist

Your Subscription Expires _____
VOL. 7 NO. 2

Proverbs 22:28. Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

MAY, 1967

607 THRASHER, MODESTO, CALIF.

Why I Am A Baptist, An Open Letter Contending for THE Faith

The inroad of universalism appears on the increase as revealed in various articles written from time to time by Baptist brethren. Possibly it is because those of us who can recognize it are too prone to keep silent and not add our voices against it for fear of offending those brethren who are not aware of the way in which they stand. In this, I believe, we err to an eventual and everlasting hurt to those we profess to love.

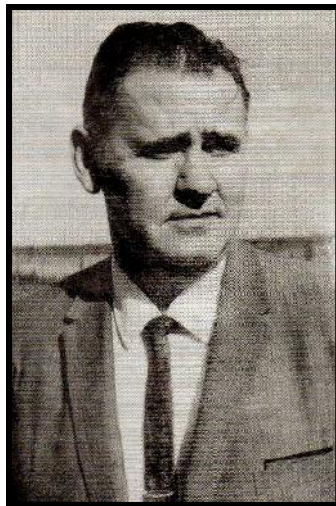
The unawareness of universalism appears in large due to the careless but well entrenched normal misuse by Baptist and other non-baptist denominations of the words saved, faith, believer, salvation, soul, etc. An article which appeared



Multitudes This Way

Many people think because they are church members and go to church regularly, pay their honest bills, do unto others as they would have others do unto them, that they will surely go to Heaven. True this is a very fine way to live, but the Bible (which is our only Authority on eternal issues) teaches us very plainly that this will not get anyone into Heaven. The Lord Jesus said, Ye shall die in your sins if ye believe not that I am He. He also said to Nicodemus, who was an upright religious, moral man, Ye must be Born Again, because that which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be Born

Pictured above is the Marysville Mission and one of their Sunday crowds. Eld. Lloyd Dickerson is the missionary in charge. They expect to organize a New Testament Church in the near future.



**Richard A. Harless,
Editor**

**Published monthly by
the
Airport Missionary
Baptist Church
Modesto, CA**

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No article is published in The Western Baptist for the purpose of injury to any individual or group. But rather in the interest of exalting truth and exposing error. All unsigned articles are by the Editor, and may be used by other publications for the glory of God. Articles by others do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor.

THE WESTERN BAPTIST 607, Thrasher Ave., Modesto, California 95351.

Why The "Old" Association?

Many of the brethren in the California Cooperative Association have asked this scribe many times "why we persist in referring to our association as "The Old California State Association"? Well, there are many reasons but, I will cite two to be specific. No. 1 a few years ago I was called to help in a revival effort with one of their churches and imagine my surprise when after I had been there for a week the church Treasurer and Clerk asked me "why we had pulled out of their association"? They had been informed, according to them, by the present moderator of their association and a former Secretary-treasurer, that we had left them, because we didn't believe in doing mission work. Imagine their surprise when I pulled a "Minute" on them and proved to them that our association was a good 20 years older than theirs and that they had pulled away from us.

Number two: A more recent occurrence, at the close of their association this year there appeared an article in the Bakersfield Californian which states and I quote, "The Rev. Allen Adkins of McFarland was elected moderator of the California State Association of First Missionary Baptist Churches at the close of the three-day annual conference this week in Tulare." Now, either someone didn't proof read very good or this is an attempt of deliberate deception. I believe that we need to keep the record straight and to keep it before their young ones, who don't know any better, that they are "Johnny-come-latelys" compared to our association.

Several months ago I wrote an article exposing, how they were trying to claim that they had started the Bellflower School. When I write about them, I send them the paper and I understand a Dewey Caves answered my article, but somehow they neglected to send me the paper which I had been receiving up until that issue. One of their brethren let me read the article months later and I wish to state here and now, that I can readily see why I wasn't sent a copy, for this article was full of untruths and was a deliberate smear of all our brethren and churches without any regard for the truth. They would like for us to forget how they got started and what they have done to our churches since. I for one will never forget and as long as I live there will be one voice speaking out and exposing practices that tend to deceive and mis-represent.

Are they now ashamed of their name or are they changing it in order to cover up things that they have told? We shall see what we shall see.

Selah

In Memory Of Virginia Bynum
Missionary Baptist Herald—VOLUME XVI, NO. 8— September, 1994



Cullifer Photo Archives

IN MEMORY

Virginia was born in Oklahoma, August 24th, 1938. She was raised in California for most of her life.

Virginia was saved and baptized as a teenager, and was a member of the First MBC of Corcoran, California.

It was at Corcoran that Virginia met and fell in love with Raymond and was married June 2, 1956. Raymond and Virginia were married 38 wonderful years.

Virginia was a very dedicated and faithful pastor's wife for over 23 years both in Orville, CA., and Salinas. She also held several offices in the Lady State Auxiliary including President.

She is survived by her husband, Pastor Raymond Bynum of Salinas, daughter Teresa Yockey of Salinas, a son Steve Bynum

of Salinas, six grandchildren, Joshua, Kimberly, Patricia, and Paul Yockey, and a Kerry and Sean Bynum.

She is also survived by her mother Mabel Buttler of Corcoran, 3 sisters, Nan Fuson of Corbin, Kentucky; Clara Kanna of Fresno; Janice Noble of Corcoran, and one brother Don Buttler of Fresno, and many other relatives and friends.

On July 12, 1994, Virginia lost the battle with colon cancer. She left this earth to be with her Heavenly Father at 9:25 pm.

As well as myself, several family members were with her at this time, including my dad and brother, but as her daughter I would just like to share with all of you the wonderful Testimony my mother gave to all of us that were present that night.

The experience we shared with mom July 12, 1994, the last 10-15 minutes of her life here on earth, was the most spiritually uplifting experience I've ever had, (next to my salvation). I'm sure all my family that were present felt the same way.

Early in the afternoon she began having a hard time breathing. We had family prayer there around her. Daddy told her that we were all going to be alright, and that it was okay to go on and be with Jesus. She said, "Oh I will, I'm just waiting for the call." She started singing the words to "On The Sunny Banks," then she rested well for the afternoon. During this time she also spoke of seeing saved loved ones who had gone on before.

Around 9:15 pm her breathing suddenly changed and her pulse became very weak.

It seemed the Lord gave her the ability to speak clearly to daddy, Steven and I, and the rest of her family. She told Steven and I to keep our children in church, and for all her family to stay in church.

She said she was "so, so, tired," and then she said, "Oh there he is my Precious Jesus, he's waiting at the gate for me," she smiled the most beautiful smile, then she said "it's time for me to go home now." She raised her hand and waved goodbye to all of us and smiled peacefully.

I believe at that moment her spirit left her body to be with her "Precious Jesus."

If this experience didn't strengthen the spiritual lives of those present and give them an even stronger assurance, I don't know what else would.

I know as her daughter to me it was the perfect ending of a dedicated Christian woman who always put her Lord and His Church first.

A loving devoted wife, mother, and grandmother who will be greatly missed. We will be together again one day very soon.

Love, Teresa Yockey

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