

LANDMARK BAPTIST HISTORIAN

Published by Landmark Baptist Church - Folsom, California

December 2016

Volume 6 ~ Number 6

"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

In This Issue: -

- John Dickerson Bonner—a Link to Early California Baptist History.....**page 2
- October-Pastor Appreciation Month Eld. Frank Palmer.....**page 3
- Tribute to my Father—M. D. Keeling Eld. David Keeling.....**page 4
- How To Organize A Baptist Church Eld. John R. Blalock.....**page 6
- Facebook Gleanings.....**page 8

Merry Christmas—2016

THE BAPTIST FLAG.

Fulton, Kentucky, Aug. 10, 1916.

NUTS FOR "LANDMARK BAPTISTS" TO CRACK

As the so-called "Landmarkers" are so loud in their denunciation of the Convention people and churches, I submit the following questions for their prayerful consideration:

1.—When did the so-called Landmark Baptist churches originate?

2.—If you say with Jesus Christ does your succession come through convention Baptists?

3.—If you came through the Convention churches, were you churches of Christ while associated with and co-operating through convention church?

4.—Were the convention churches, churches of Christ, while you were co-operating with them?

5.—Did the convention church cease to be the church of Christ when you split off from them?

6.—If the convention churches are not the churches of Christ, just when did they cease to be the churches of Christ?

7.—If God cast off the convention churches when did He do it? When the convention was organized, or after it had been operating for a number of years?

8.—If God cast them off when the convention was organized, how long did you co-operate with them after God cast them off?

9.—If there is no scripture for associations and conventions, what advantage have you over convention churches seeing you have associations, the B.M.A., and the general association (in spots) in America?

10.—If the convention churches are the churches of Christ, why do you not co-operate with them inasmuch as Jesus says: "He that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad."

11.—If the convention churches are the churches of Christ, are you not guilty of treating the churches of Christ with contempt?

12.—In treating convention churches with contempt are you not guilty of treating Jesus Christ with contempt?

13.—If convention churches are not the churches of Christ, where did you get your baptism?

14.—Can an unscriptural church administer Scriptural baptism?

15.—Do your churches receive members on letters from convention churches?

16.—If so, do you not by that act recognize them as churches of Christ?

17.—Is it not a fact that you people are making the same fight and upon the same ground that A. Campbell fought the churches in their work of giving the gospel to the world?

18.—If you people have, as you claim, the only scriptural plan for doing mission work, why are you not operating that plan?

Will some so-called Landmarker try

his hand on this list of questions?
H. A. THOMPSON.

Remarks.

1.—A. D. 33.

2.—No. Most Landmark churches never had any connection with conventions.

3.—We never were in connection with convention churches.

4.—We never cooperated with them in conventions.

5.—We have not split off from convention churches.

6.—We have never claimed that convention churches ceased to be the churches of Christ.

1.—We have never said that God cast you off.

8.—We have never co-operated with them in conventions.

9.—We have this advantage over conventionized churches: we do not co-operate with anything the churches do not make up and control, while convention churches do so in their entire work.

10.—We do co-operate with convention churches, except in their co-operation with conventionism in supplanting the churches of Christ.

11.—Yes, we treat them with contempt in their convention work in supplanting the churches of Jesus Christ.

12.—No. Jesus Christ treats all such convention work with contempt, because it supplants his churches in the work of evangelizing the world.

13.—We never received it at the hands of a convention church or a convention preacher. Both were landmark.

14.—No.

15.—Yes.

16.—Yes.

17.—No.

18.—We are trying to operate this Bible way, but we are not doing as much as we might otherwise did the world, the flesh, the devil and conventionism not hinder us so much.

Yes, than you, Brother Thompson, we will answer you. Will you now answer a couple of questions for us?

1.—Who commissioned your Home and Foreign Boards to evangelize the world?

2.—If God commissioned neither of the Boards, are they not supplanting the true churches of Jesus Christ? If not, why not?

Now we want you to answer these two questions fully and completely.

—We are glad to note that Oak Grove church, near Martin, Tenn., had a gracious meeting, with 11 additions to the church. Pastor Clifton was aided by our young Brother Jam Hall and A. S. Hall for a time.

August 1916

The Baptist Flag

A BAPTIST WEEKLY.

THOMAS F. MOORE..... Editor and Manager

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY

BAPTIST FLAG PUBLISHING COMPANY
(INCORPORATED.)

400 MAIN STREET, FULTON, KENTUCKY.

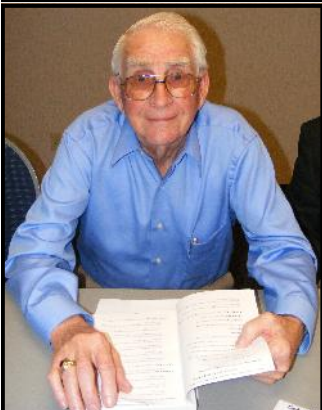
BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

J. L. GLOVER..... President
R. T. MOORE..... Secretary
DR. H. C. JOHNSTON M. P. BUSH E. W. STARNES
T. F. MOORE..... Business Manager
J. H. MOORE..... Assistant Business Manager

HISTORY AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

April 11, 2001

Motion was made, seconded and carried that this committee commission Brother L. D. Perdue for an extended research trip to the school in Little Rock, Arkansas, at his own expense.



Bro. Doug returned from Little Rock with numerous copies of Baptist Newspapers to augment our files. This article from the August 1916, Baptist Flag serves as an example. The bulk of this material was the Baptist Commoner which evolved into The Searchlight. Our State owes Bro. Perdue a debt of gratitude for his tireless efforts.

—RWC, Editor

The Landmark Baptist Historian
 Published Monthly\
 In PDF-e-mail Format
 by the
Landmark Baptist Church
 609 Figueroa Street
 Folsom, CA 95630
Robert W. Cullifer, Editor
 Lbfolsom@aol.com
 916.718-9770



James Dickerson Bonner



James D. Bonner and the churches he pastored were members of the following California Baptist Associations:

1. The San Francisco Baptist Association
2. The Pacific Baptist Association
3. The Clear Lake Baptist Association
4. The Eastern Baptist Association of California & Oregon

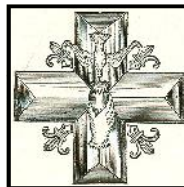
Out of this last Association came the California State Association of Missionary Baptist Churches in the early 1930's.

James Dickerson Bonner A Link to Early California Baptists

John Dickerson Bonner “Obituary Notice: James Dickerson Bonner died at his home on Sugar Hill, Modoc County California, July 26, 1898. James Dickerson Bonner, aged 78 years, 7 months and 8 days. Brother Bonner was born in Allan County Kentucky, December 1819. He was the fourth son of Moses J. and Nancy Smith Bonner. He moved to Arkansas in early life and was married to Elizabeth Gibson October 14, 1841. To her was born three daughters, who are now all dead. His companion died in 1859. He was baptized into the fellowship of the Baptist church in 1837, and ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry in 1848. In 1850 he crossed the plains in company with deacon T.H. Garret of Lake City, California, settled in Lake County, California, where he taught school and preached for a number of years. October 3, 1861, he was again married to Martha Ella Parker. To her was born four sons, Walter Parker, James William, John Todd and Lester Vernon. In 1872 he moved with his wife and little sons from Lake to Modoc County, California, and in 1873 he organized the First Baptist church of Goose Lake, which was the first Baptist church organized in Modoc County. He was pastor of this church fourteen years, which prospered while he was pastor. At the close of fourteen years his declining health compelled him to retire from active pastoral work. The funeral occurred at the Baptist church in New Pine Creek, July 27. Brother H. Smith preached the sermon, which was requested by Brother Bonner before his death. Brother Smith took for his text Rev 13:14. The sermon was appropriate and ably delivered and listened to by a large and sorrowing congregation of brethren and friends who followed him to his last resting place. May God bless the sorrowing family of Brother Bonner.” - S. B. CHASTAIN

THE BAPTIST SENTINEL SEPTEMBER 1, 1898

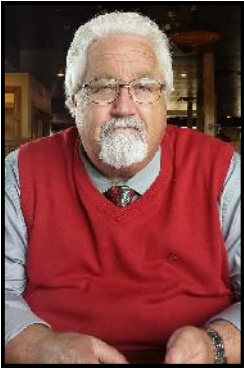
The History of Landmark Baptists of California—Volume 1, page 71
 Published by the History & Archives Committee of
 The Cooperative Association of Missionary Baptist Churches of California
 Copyright 2010



New Pine Creek Cemetery

Frank Palmer's Dailey e-mail Devotional

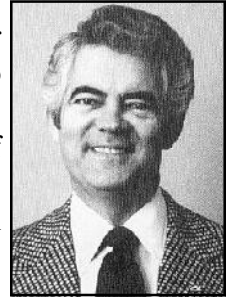
Wednesday October 26, 2016



James Frank Palmer

Yesterday I shared some thoughts on Pastor Appreciation month. Today, I'd like to honor the 4 men who have been my Pastor's.

First, Pastor Paul Magness – he was the pastor I was saved under and the pastor who baptized me. He was also the pastor who led my Dad to the Lord and also baptized my Dad and my sister, Elaine. Bro. Magness was also my pastor when my Dad passed away in 1967 and he took care of my Dad's funeral. Thankful for his kindness and heart that my family experienced during that time. Bro. Magness was my first pastor and was an good encourager down through the years in my ministry.



Next was Pastor Larry Reeves – he was my pastor when I announced my call into the ministry. At that time the Antioch a lot of young/new preachers, at one time maybe close to 20 of us! What a challenge that must have been for Bro. Reeves. A man of great wisdom and integrity. During my senior year of high school, the clutch went out on my car and Bro. Reeves spent the whole day helping/teaching me to replace a clutch. I was amazed that he would spend the whole day helping me!



3rd, was Pastor Roy Reed – he was my pastor during my seminary years – what a challenge he had! Pastoring a church and leading a seminary. Probably the best preacher I ever heard – he could take any subject and break it down so even I could understand. One of great regrets is that I didn't take more notes during his sermons!



My last pastor was Pastor Mike Roberson. First met Bro. Mike and his wife Sandy, when I moved to Bellflower to attend seminary. They were the college age leaders. We quickly hit it off – eventually he and Sandy moved away as they followed the Lord in their lives. After graduating seminary, I didn't feel like I was quite ready to pastor. At that time (1976) Bro. Mike was pastor at McFarland. Some doors opened up and I was able to move to McFarland and be their Youth Director for a couple of years. I've often said I learned more during my 2 years under Bro. Roberson than I did at school. I'm thankful that I had a couple of years to get my feet wet under a Pastor like Bro. Roberson before becoming a pastor myself.



All four of my Pastor's have gone on to be with the Lord, but I am so thankful for each one and the part they played in my development as a believer and as a future pastor. I owe each one a great debt of thanks!!

Tribute to my Father—M. D. Keeling

By David Keeling

[David Keeling](#) Facebook Post—October 25, 2016



Many years ago, I was given the rare opportunity to introduce my father before he preached. This being close to the anniversary of his home-going, I have decided to post my introduction. He probably didn't like me saying all this stuff because I gushed a bit. He probably wouldn't want it posted but I am doing it because I want to say publicly I appreciate him just as much and even more than the others whom I have mentioned here over this month.

He was well placed and well used for the sake of Christ. May each of us have high caliber and capable men influencing us every day...

INTRODUCTION OF MY FATHER (Dr. M.D. Keeling)

In 1962 two things happened to my father that have dramatically changed the course of his life: He announced a call to the ministry, and I was born.

Now, he was born Dec.3, 1937, born again in 1947 at the Armona Missionary Baptist Church, and married Oct 19, 1957, to his High School sweetheart while serving in the Air Force as a sergeant. It was during these years the Lord began to call him out as a shepherd of the Lord's flock. Upon being discharged from the military, he settled back in the Visalia area, where in Jan of 1962, he announced his call to preach. They licensed him to the Gospel ministry as well. I was born later that year and our family soon moved to Southern California for Dad to attend California Missionary Baptist Institute and Seminary in Bellflower. The Southgate church ordained him in 1968 because Pomona Landmark Baptist Church had called him to pastor.



His pastorates include:

Pomona 1968- 70

Lynwood 1971-1974

Sharon 1974 76

President of Northwest Baptist Institute in Bend Oregon 1976-82

Winston Oregon 1982-86

San Jose Calif. 1986- 1999

With his last pastorate being Cypress in Sacramento.

He was moderator of local and state associations He spent 10 years on the National Missionary committee and over 15 years as a Baptist Sunday school Committeeman.

While living in the Northwest, dad was instrumental in the establishing of two local and two state associations. He held a bachelor in ministry, a master in ancient languages and doctorates in Divinity, and Theology.

While I have just listed the achievements of one man's lifetime it says little about the man himself. Dad talked a lot about the Dinuba church and when Visalia was just starting out as a church. How Kenneth Hill was his Sunday School teacher throughout all his teenage and young married life! How that the other teens in that church became pastors and deacons in the state of California.

I know from first hand experience, he's a man who communicates his convictions and has things to say that make for worthwhile listening. Several years ago, I wrote a tribute to my father for Father's Day. This is a tradition now for me. This was my first attempt at putting down in words my relationship with him. And because almost every year of my life, I have been separated from him on Father's Day, and because I want to publicly honor him in obedience to the commands of God, but, mostly, because it speaks to the issue of his credibility as a teacher, communicator and man of God,

I want to conclude my remarks by reading this tribute.

Dear Dad,

You can take great comfort in the fact that your voice is the first voice I remember in my life. You said, and I quote, "Let's move Betty, he'll never find us!" I knew, even back then you had a great amount of style and attitude. When all is

—Continued on page 5

Tribute to my Father—M. D. Keeling

By David Keeling

—Continued from page 4

said and done, I owe an awful lot of my personality to trying to be like you. Those early memories all had the elements of either laughter or quiet reflection. We either had Uncle Larry or Uncle Curtis, or Uncle Carliss, or somebody from the church in our home, cracking up with you and mom. Laughter has always been a hallmark trait on our home. Thanks for that. It was a testimony many times against the situations we were facing as a family. It spoke of a belief you had in God, that everything was all right and a deep-seated belief that God was always already working it all out. The quiet reflection was when it was just our family. I don't recall a lot of conversations with you. We were laughing; or else I was waiting for you to talk. I'd just stand these beside you waiting for you to say something. I didn't mind the stall, because I felt you were taking my question seriously, always a concern of mine, and you were forming an answer that would be both understandable and profound. I think that is probably why I was ready to be saved at the age of six. It was like a great big switch was being turned on inside of me as I sat there week after week at Pomona, watching you pour your heart out to the people. I didn't know what you were talking about all the time, but I knew you did! It was obvious you had a relationship with God and you always talked about how good that was and how it would change a life. Of course I wanted that for myself. So, on a Sunday night, in your bedroom, with a house full of visiting family, with mom kneeling beside me, your God became my God. And I instantly had a better relationship with you. I really grew up with you and the Lord leading the way. I remember leaving Pomona, the wilderness experiences of Spokane in Washington State, the decision to move to Walla Walla, and how temporary it all felt. I knew that wasn't going to last. God made you to pastor.

I remember dressing up like you (as an airman) for Halloween once. Of all the years, that's the one I remember. I guess that's natural. More than anything else I want to say thanks for being such a great person for me to want to emulate.

Then there were the Seminary years. Yours I mean. Back to Bellflower and school. I made friends back then with the children of your friends and I still have many of those relationships today! Andy, Regina, Shelly, Vicki, Brian, Cheryl Jimmy Dale, Tim, Bill, Eric, and wouldn't you know, one of your friends had a daughter, who, 20 years later would become your daughter-in-law. Once again, I see now that you knew what you were doing for your family.

Then came more Seminary years. Yours I mean. As president of Northwest Baptist Institute. What a difference from LA - once again, our family held together because of good choices. I remember going with you and hearing about your relationship with your heavenly father.

Then came the Seminary Years. Mine I mean. The money you spent! The choices you made! Helping me decide what to make of this thing called servanthood. Helping me with my homework. Selling me your good sermons! Ha. Keeping me on the path of righteousness for His names sake. Allowing God to put me between the hammer and the anvil for the purpose of forging me into something worthwhile for the kingdom sake. And when things, circumstance, and men without character failed me and called my very core into question, you above all others were a voice of clarity and reason when I desperately needed to hear from an unmovable man of principle.

Sometimes it was in action sometimes it was in deed, and sometimes it was in words, you have been faithful to raise me in the fear of God. How many times have you said, Son, live your life on principles." Even though you set the bar pretty high, you were also there faithfully saying, "You can do it. I believe in you. You belong with me, and I'm here for you when you need me. Do you best, and you'll never have regrets. Never forget I love you"

Well, I've said it before, and I am reminded of it again today that, you gave me a physical inheritance that made it easy for me to accept my spiritual inheritance. I'm glad that I learned from the best on how to be a father. Between my two dads one earthly and one heavenly, I have been made whole, healed of my physical illnesses, my mental sicknesses and my spiritual woes. I know now I need to pass the baton on to the next generation of Keeling's and spread the news that life is better now and in eternity when you have fathers who love their heavenly Father.

Ladies and gentleman, I am thankful to introduce to you tonight's speaker. Listen to what my father Dr. M.D. Keeling has to say. Apply it to your heart and be forever changed. *hashtag iappreciatemdkeeling*

Thank you Brother David for sharing your heart and memories of your Dad.

How To Organize A Baptist Church

John R. Blalock

Lester Scott
14955, Ave. 313
Visalia, Calif. 93277



MAY
--JUNE
1973

Landmarks

"Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set." Pro. 22:28.
John R. Blalock, Editor, 2718 S. E. 27th, Portland, Ore. 97202-Tel. 235-1287

HOW TO ORGANIZE A BAPTIST CHURCH

"A Baptist Church is an executive body, not a legislative body," is a statement agreed upon by all my old Baptist teachers, my own father as well. This means that churches are not to make laws, rather they are to carry out the laws and commands in God's Word.

Concerning the number needed to organize a New Testament church, Baptists have always gone to the Bible, where Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matt. 18:20. Therefore we believe that a church may be organized, if necessary, with no more than two members, though this is seldom done except on a mission field where only two or three qualified Baptists are available to form a church with authority in baptizing new converts. But a large number are not necessary.

My own father, who organized many churches over this Pacific Coast in his day, always said that if he found one sound and dedicated Baptist family in a place, he had the nucleus for organizing a church. Note that in the New Testament many churches were in someone's house, and no doubt that family in that house had been the nucleus for organizing the church there.

As Baptists, we understand a New Testament Church to be a group of Scripturally baptized followers of Christ, who have voluntarily fellowshiped together as a church in order to worship and serve God. Baptists have never made any laws and are unable to make any laws as to just how or by what method such a group shall come together and organize into a church.

(Continued on Page 2)

ABOUNDING GRACE

Just now I am moved to write upon this subject because there are those who teach that God's grace is extended to only a certain chosen few, "the elect", who receive that grace simply because they have been chosen, while others have not had grace extended to them because, it being "irresistable grace," they, too, would receive it and be saved. God's word does not teach such favoritism as this.

"But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Rom. 5:20. This verse from Romans 5, the "much more" chapter, makes plain the extent of God's grace.

I. WHERE SIN ABOUNDED

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Rom. 5:12. How far did sin abound? Surely no one can deny that the Bible teaches that sin abounds to all men from Adam down to the end of time. "There is none righteous, no, not one." Rom. 3:10. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Rom. 3:23. Again and again the Bible teaches that sin is universal to all mankind. And because sin is universal, the penalty, death, is also universal. "It is appointed unto men once to die." Everywhere, on every hand, the dead and dying, the funerals and cemeteries bear mute witness to the truth of God's Word. Sin and death have abounded to all mankind.

II. BUT WHERE SIN ABOUNDED, GRACE DID MUCH MORE ABOUND.

How can anyone interpret this otherwise than that God's grace does abound to all mankind? Moreover that this grace is much more abounding even than the sin?

(Continued on Page 3)

—Continued on page 7

How To Organize A Baptist Church—Continued

John R. Blalock

—Continued from page 6

Page 2

Organize a Baptist Church--Con.

Usually a group of Christians are led by some missionary or other ordained minister into bringing about the organization of a church, however the first Baptist church ever organized in Oregon, before 1850, had no ordained minister to help them or to pastor them until quite some time after they had organized.

With the many churches all about today, usually nearby churches of like faith and order are invited to send their pastors and ordained deacons to take part in the organization program. Usually this is planned before hand, and the visitors are given parts such as reading the articles of faith, reading the covenant, prayers, special exhortations and of course the main sermon. Primarily these visitors are invited to witness to the testimonies as to experience of salvation and of baptism of those going into the organization, and the soundness of the doctrines upon which they are agreeing as a church. If they are satisfied with these, it is customary, then, for the ordained visitors to meet as a council and to vote to recognize the new church as a Scriptural church of Christ. This report is of course carried back to their home churches so that the new church is immediately admitted into full fellowship with them. These practices are entirely Scriptural, being based upon Christian principles of mutual respect and cooperation.

However Baptists recognize no authority in this matter except the local church. If the members of a new church have met the Scriptural qualifications as to salvation and baptism, and were united together upon doctrines that were Scriptural and Baptist, even though the whole council or part of the council should vote not to recognize them, they would still be no less a Scriptural, New Testament Church. Among true, independent Missionary Baptists, I don't think such a thing could ever happen, but among others it sometimes does. J.R.B.

FROM THE EDITOR

We continually thank those who remember us here and hope to be more and more a blessing to you and in the service of Christ.

April 15th seven of the mission here in Portland joined at Union Baptist Church, Sheridan, and since then my mission work has been extended. I am now preaching for them Sunday and Thursday evenings and also at Sheridan Sunday mornings. Thursday evening the services are usually at the Marquand home in Oregon City, and Sunday evening services at the Folsum home in Portland. They also hold Sunday morning Sunday school and church services in one of their homes each Sunday. Bro. Folsum or Bro. Marquand speak at these services. They have adopted the name, "House of Prayer Baptist Mission." Recently two have professed salvation in Sunday school classes. Sister Folsum also leads weekly home Bible study classes in Oregon City and has now started a Bible club for children there also. We rejoice in the missionary zeal of this group.

--John R. Blalock

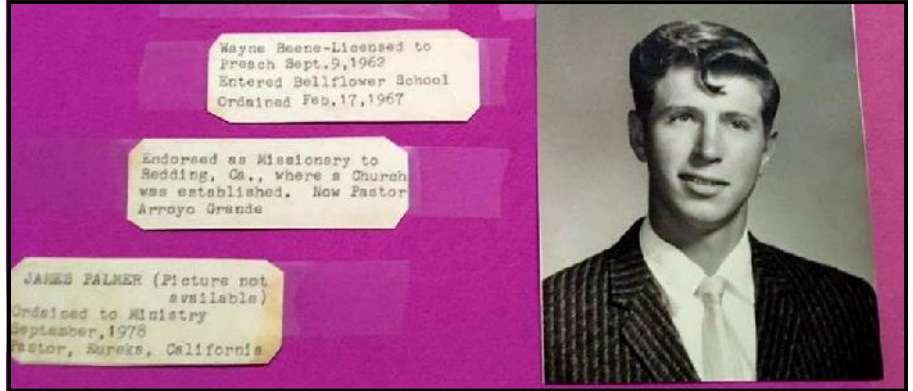
OREGON NEWS AND NOTES

Recently we have learned that Eld. M. J. McCraw has resigned as pastor at Fossil, Oregon, because of poor health. We also learned that Eld. C. V. Blanchard has resigned as pastor at New Pine Creek of the First Baptist Church of Goose Lake, which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. We sincerely pray God to bless and lead these pastors and also these churches that each may find the right man for the place.

.....
May 12th Young Peoples Rally at Union Baptist Church was a wonderful day of fellowship enjoyed by all. Bro. Curtis Dearing of Coquille (Empire M.B.C.) did a fine job of leading the program. At noon there was a sumptuous dinner out under the oak trees.

Facebook Gleanings

Eld. Shawn Hendrix—Collage
2016 Coastal Cooperative Association



Kenneth Wayne Beene



Our Baptist Veterans



M. D. Keeling



Richard Paslay



Glenn Ridings



John Thiem



Gene Bowhay



Todd Dornan



Henry Reed

Active Duty



Brad Chambers

Thank You

Brethren, for your Service to the Lord
and to our Country. God Bless You.