

# LANDMARK BAPTIST HISTORIAN

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Volume 6 ~ Number 7

"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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**Happy 70th  
Anniversary  
First Missionary Baptist Church  
Oakdale**

*Originally published in Landmark Baptist Historian—September 2016—Volume 6 ~ Number 3*



### Excerpts From L. D. Perdue's Autobiography

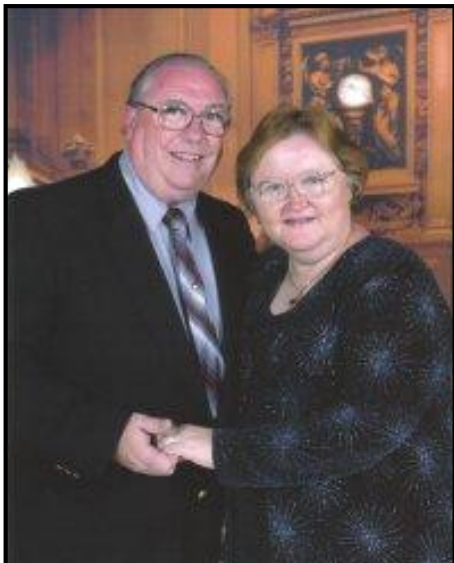
After we arrived in Oakdale, one of the most exciting years of my ministry began. There was a group of people, most of them relatives, who wanted to establish a church in Oakdale. Everyone at that time in my family were members of the Riverbank Missionary Baptist Church located about 5 miles from Oakdale. Bro. Jesse Scott was the pastor. Bro. Scott was favorable for this mission work to be established. It was about the first of December when we began services in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall in Oakdale. A goodly crowd was present. The interest was great. The spirit was good and it became very evident that we could soon organize into a church.

On January 3, 1947 the invitations went out for the organization of a Missionary Baptist Church. We had the services start at 9:30 and the church was organized. Ted Cooper, pastor of the Brentwood Church, led the meeting. Sonny Williams, one of our mission members prayed. Bro. Art Harris led in the devotion. Bro. Ted Cooper prayed the dedication prayer. Bro. Harris was chosen as clerk. Bro. R.Y. Blaylock read the Church Covenant and 22 members went into the charter of the new church. The church voted to adopt the Articles of Faith in the Baptist Way Book written by Ben M. Bogard. The churches represented were Brentwood, Antioch, Fresno, San Jose and Richmond. Bro. Jesse Scott preached the organization sermon. The church adopted the name, First Missionary Baptist Church and called me as their pastor. My brother Richard Perdue was elected as church clerk. At that time the church voted to ordain 3 deacons. Bro. Othie Perdue my father, and Bro. Richard Perdue, my brother and Bro. Sonny Williams. Another message was brought by R.Y. Blaylock using as his text II Timothy 3:16 and 17. Bro. Farris then dismissed the meeting in prayer.”

—Continued on page 7



In Loving Memory  
**Sherry Marlene Townsend**  
December 23, 1946—November 20, 2016



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**Robert W. Cullifer, Editor**  
 Lbfolsom@aol.com  
 916.718-9770



**Doug & Maurine Perdue—1946**



**Rich Perdue—1947**



**Buster Lockhart**

## Charter Members First Missionary Baptist Church

Bro. Dee Burch  
 Sis. Oleta Burch  
 Sis. Annie Lou Burch  
 Sis. Ethel Light  
 Sis. Opal Light  
 Bro. W. R. Lockhart  
 Sis. Maybelle Lockhart  
 Bro. Charles Lockhart  
 Bro. Leonard Lockhart  
 Bro. Needham Northcutt  
 Sis. Thelma Northcutt  
 Bro. W. O. Perdue  
 Sis. Annie Perdue  
 Bro. Gary Perdue  
 Sis. Jean Perdue  
 Bro. Douglas Perdue  
 Sis. Maurine Perdue  
 Bro. Joe Spradlin  
 Sis. Agnes Spradlin  
 Bro. Troy Ward  
 Bro. Sonny Williams  
 Sis. Inez Williams  
**Other Families**  
 Bro. Dale Macintosh  
 Bro. Marvin Bryant  
 Shelby Ross

### **Oakdale, First Missionary Baptist Church (ABA)**

The FMBC, Oakdale, sponsored by FMBC, Riverbank, Missionary L. D. Perdue, was organized January 3, 1947 with 22 charter members. An additional 80 were added by year's end. The church adopted the Articles of Agreement in the Baptist Way Book by Ben M. Bogard. The first year, the church purchased property and completed the basement section of the building.

The following served as pastor: L. D. Perdue in 1947; Walter Griffin in 1948; Allen Tabor from 1948-51; Clyde Murphy from 1951-53; L. M. Branch from 1953-54; Wayne Easlon from 1954-59; L. M. Branch (second time) from 1959-60; R. M. Brown from 1960-61; L. R. Horton from 1961-62; George Walton from 1962-66; Tonie Robertson from 1967-71; Maynard Beckler from 1971-74; James Ligon from 1975-76; Richard Paslay from 1977-87; Jeff Roadcap from 1988-93; Clifford Creel from 1993-99; and Tonie Robertson (second time) since 2000. Clyde Murphy tried but failed to lead the church into the NABA. The church chosed instead to represent in Coop. The church sold their first building and property to purchase their present property during the pastorate of Richard Paslay.

*The History of Landmark Baptists of California - Who We Are*  
 Volume 2—page 318

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 The Cooperative Association of Missionary Baptist Churches of California  
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# Organization Service

## First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Oakdale, California

On Friday, January 3, 1947 a special meeting was called by Bro. Douglas Perdue, for the purpose of organizing a Missionary Baptist Church in the city of Oakdale, California.

The meeting opened at 9:30 A.M., singing led by Bro. Ted Cooper of Brentwood. Prayer by Sonny Williams at 10:00. Bro. Arthur Harris led the devotional at 10:45. Ted Cooper led the dedication prayer. Bro. Arthur Harris was chosen as clerk. Bro. R. Blalock read the church covenant. There were 22 charter members. The new church voted to adopt the articles of Faith as written in the Baptist Way-Book; written by Ben M. Bogard.

The visiting churches voted to receive this group into full fellowship as a church. The hand of fellowship was given to the new church, by visiting churches. Churches represented were, Concord, Brentwood, Tracy, Antioch, Fresno, Riverbank, San Jose, and Richmond. Bro. Jesse Scott, Riverbank, was chosen to preach at 11:00 A.M., his text being taken from 2 Corinthians 4:3-4.

After lunch, Bro. Ted Cooper again led in singing. Prayer by Bro. Ferris of Fresno, Bro. Vic Salyer led devotional at 2:00. After this Bro. Perdue entertained a motion to name the church. The First Missionary Baptist Church, Oakdale, was the name given. Bro. Douglas Perdue was called as pastor by acclamation.

Bro. Richard Perdue was elected Sec. Treas. Sis. Mabel Lockhart as church clerk.

A motion was entertained that three Deacons be elected. Bro. Othie Perdue, Bro. Richard Perdue, and Bro. Sonny Williams were ordained.

Bro. Blalock brought a good message reading from 2 Timothy 3:16 - 17. After this sermon the meeting was dismissed in prayer by Bro. Ferris.

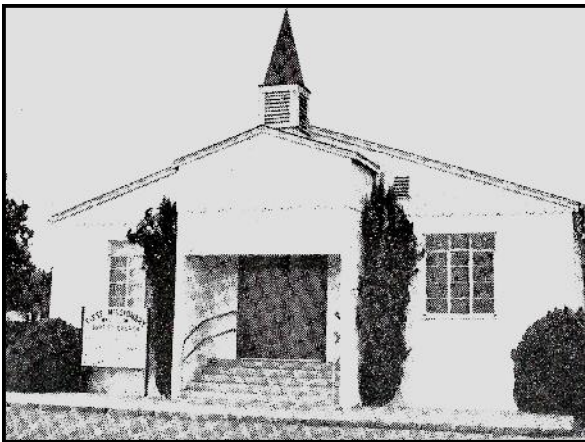
Church clerk: Mabel Lockhart,

**Deacons:**

Othie Perdue

Richard Perdue -----January 3, 1947

Sonny Williams



**First building at East & G Streets**

Brother Sonny Williams surrendered to the call to preach.



A motion made and carried to accept the building funds and the Deacons to choose the lots to build on. Lots were found and the church voted to buy. January 7, 1947.

The church sent Bro. Victor Salyer out as a missionary May 6, 1947.

Motion made and carried to license Bro's Charles Lockhart and Vickie Salyer to preach the gospel. June 3, 1947.

Motion made and carried ordain Bro. Ralph Lockhart to the full time ministry. June 3, 1947

The church had all day dedication service June 14, 1947. Bro. Ralph Lockhart was ordained to preach the gospel and

Dee Birch

Dale McIntosh-----Ordained is Deacons

Nedham Northcutt

The church held its first Revival the latter part of July, 1947 with Bro. M. B. Hubbard and Bro. Ben Crawford as evangelists.

Tuesday, August 5, 1947 Bro. Williams preached his first sermon after the church licensed him to preach.

The church voted to accept Bro. Perdue's resignation as Pastor that he might enter the school at Little Rock. Tuesday, November 26, 1947.



Niece, Judy Perdue (Doleman), daughter of Richard & Jean Perdue,  
Charter Members of the Oakdale Church.  
At Orangeblossom 1947

## Pastors of the First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Oakdale



1947 L. D. Perdue

——1948 Walter Griffin



1948—51 Allen Tabor



1951—53 C. Murphy



1953—54 L. M. Branch  
1959—60 L. M. Branch



1954—59 Wayne Easlon

——1960—61 R. M. Brown



1961—62 Lee Royce  
Horton



1962—66 George Walton



1967—71 Tonie Robertson



1971—74 Maynard Beckler



1975—76 James Ligon



1977—87 Richard Paslay

# Pastors of the First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Oakdale



1988—93 Jeff Roadcap



1991—93 Jim Kral  
(Associate Pastor)



1993—99 Clifford Creel



2000—07 Tonie Robertson



Jan. 2009—Feb. 6, 2011  
Vance Kelley



Oct. 12, 2014—July 10,  
2016 Zak Crouch

## *New Pastor*



*December 2016  
Richard Carnes*

## From the 50th Anniversary Handout

### CHURCH HISTORY

*In late 1946, Brother L.D. Purdue was endorsed as Missionary by the Riverbank Missionary Baptist Church to begin a work in Oakdale. Thus, the First Missionary Baptist Church of Oakdale was organized on January 3, 1947. There were 22 charter members (all listed on the back of this program). Churches represented at the organization included Concord, Brentwood, Tracy, Antioch, Fresno, Riverbank, San Jose, and Richmond. Brother L.D. Purdue was unanimously called as Pastor of the Church. The first Deacons elected and ordained were Brother Othie Purdue, Brother Richard Purdue, and Brother Sonny Williams. The church adopted the Articles of Faith as written in "The Baptist Way Book" by Brother Ben M. Bogard.*

*Later in 1947, the Church voted to send out Brother Vic Salyer as Missionary to begin a work in Escalon, resulting in the organization of a New Testament Church in Escalon.*

*The Church erected a building at East & G Streets in 1947. In 1977, under the pastorship of Richard Pastay, the church sold the building and adjacent property and bought the property and church building at its existing location, 1141 Walnut Street, Oakdale.*

*The Church in Oakdale has enjoyed fifty years of fellowship and service in the Lord's work. In the Fellowship Hall is a wonderful collection of pictures of members, both former and present, plus events covering the past fifty years.*

*Thank you for participating in our anniversary celebration!*



# First MBC-Oakdale In the News & Baptist Records

## Church Minutes

Oakdale Minutes

Church Clerk: Haybelle Lockhart,

*July, 47*

The church held its first Revival the latter part of July, 1947 with Bro. N. B. Hubbard and Bro. Ben Crawford as evangelists. Bro. Ronny Williams surrendered to the call to preach.

Tues. Aug. 5, 1947, Bro. Williams preached his first sermon after the church licensed him to preach.

Oakdale Minutes

Feb. 1, 1948, Bro. Joe Spradlin surrendered to the call to preach the Gospel and the Church voted to grant him a license to preach. He delivered his first sermon that evening.

The church voted to send Bro. and Mrs. Joe Spradlin and Bro. W. Griffin to the American Baptist Association Convening in St. Louis on March 16, 1948. This motion made March 10, 1948.

On May 2, 1948 a revival began with Bro. Joe Spradlin as evangelist.



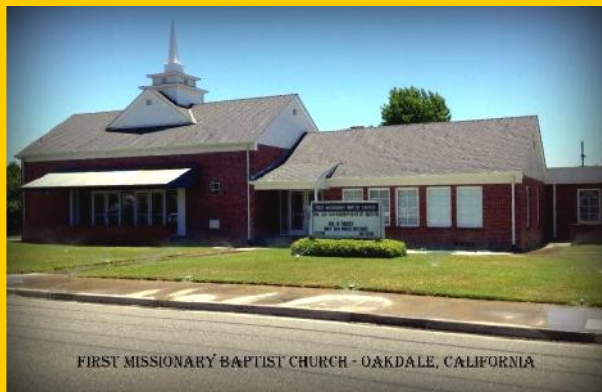
July 1947

### THE WESTERN BAPTIST

by the Oakdale Church, and is doing a good work at Escalon. He established a new church there about a month ago. We pray God's blessings upon him in the work there, or wherever he may go from there. Thus we enjoyed another spiritual feast in song.

7:30 Song service, Bro. Vic Salyer leading. Bro. Salyer is a missionary sent out

## New Home of First MBC October 1977



FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - OAKDALE, CALIFORNIA

### California Missionary Baptist

#### OAKDALE CHURCH NEWS

Feb. 6, 1947

Dear Brother Hunt:

The First Missionary Baptist Church of Oakdale, California, is one month old. The Lord has greatly blessed us in our work. There have been four conversions and baptisms. Two joined by letter and one by statement. Out of five Sundays that we have met we have had three Sunday baptisms.

Our church has chosen two lots on which to build a church house. The members with the help of our fellow-brethren in the Riverbank church have been able to raise the money to pay for these lots. All donations from outsiders are to be put on the building fund.

The women of our church have organized our auxiliary. We have a regular attendance of about ten women.

The women are making a white "Biblical" quilt to raise money for the building fund. For each donation of 10 cents or more we embroider your name on a block that has our favorite Bible verse in the center of each block. In the center of the quilt John 3:16 is to be embroidered. The quilt will be sold to the person offering the most money for it when it is finished. Some of the women have their blocks over half finished already. Pray for us that we will continue to work for the Lord and do all things as He would have us to do them.

THELMA NORTHCUTT,  
Reporter  
Rt. 1, Box 65 A, Oakdale, Calif.

The Western Baptist  
Vol. 3-No. 1  
September 5, 1947

## Rally of the Northern California Young People

The Young People met with the Oakdale Church, July 19, 1947, at 9:30 a.m. After song service led by Eld. Ted Cooper, devotional service was led by Bro. Carl Owens, using Romans 5:1-11.

Our subject for discussion was "The Life of Christ," and the parts were given as follows:

- ESCALON—"Prophecy of Jesus' Birth," by Opal Dale Light.
- ANTIOCH—"Birth and Childhood of Christ," by Blanche Tempton.
- RIVERSIDE—"Birth and Childhood of Christ," by Betty Graham.
- MODESTO—"Baptism and Temptation of Christ," by Mary Kennicutt.
- SACRAMENTO—"Baptism and Temptation of Christ," by Gilbert Ross.
- RICHMOND—"Ministry of Christ," by Charles Smith.

Bro. Norman Quick preached the eleven o'clock sermon from Luke 4:11-19, Romans 10:13-15, John 1:15. This was Bro. Norman's first attempt to preach, and it was truly a great message from a very humble man. At the close Bro. Carl and Bro. Norman were given the hand of appreciation.

After lunch served by the Oakdale ladies, we gathered again in the church and began the afternoon services by singing songs and choruses.

Sister Peggy Williams led devotional service, using John 3:9-18. The parts for the afternoon were given as follows:

(Continued on page 3)

#### RALLY OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA YOUNG PEOPLE

(Continued from page 1)

- EL NIDO—"Christ's Trial and Crucifixion," by Bro. Moore.
  - BRENTWOOD—"Burial and Resurrection," by James Reeves, followed by a special song by Joette and Nancy Cooper—"He Lives."
  - OAKDALE—"The Second Coming," by Charles Lockhart.
- Bro. Charles Lockhart brought the afternoon message from Eph. 2. Charles is only about thirteen years old. Bro. Ben Crawford was elected to use the remaining thirty minutes. His subject was "Ye Must Be Born Again."
- Sister Peggy Williams, Bro. Charles Lockhart, and Bro. Ben Crawford were given a hand in appreciation. A missionary offering of about twenty dollars was taken up for the two missionaries present, who were Bro. Vic Salyer and Bro. Don Ross.
- Our next rally will be held with the Riverbank Missionary Baptist Church.
- BETTY GRAHAM, Reporter

# First MBC-Oakdale In the News & Baptist Records

**The California Missionary  
Baptist**  
Vol. 8-No. 4  
July 15, 1947

### OAKDALE DEDICATION & ORDINATION

Ordained help from Sister churches met in counsel with the MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OAKDALE, to dedicate their new church and ordain some deacons and a preacher.

Brother Buster Lockhart was ordained to work of the ministry, and brethren Dee Berch, Dale McIntash, and Needhans Northcutt as deacons. Churches represented were Antioch, San Jose, Riverbank, El Nido, Modesto, Escalon, and Oakdale. Bro. Harris was elected moderator, Bro. Salyer clerk, Bro. Tabor examiner, Bro. Svott charged candidates, Bro. A. A. Moore charge to the church, Bro. Lockhart to preach the sermon, and others having part were: Brethren W. O. Perdue and Sunney Williams.

It was a good service and enjoyed by all present. Bro. Lockhart has a wonderful future. Oakdale church has elected him for mission work, and he is going to work at Waterford. Let us remember him in our prayers.

FLORENCE SALYER



—Continued from page 1

### Excerpts From L. D. Perdue's Autobiography

“The Oakdale Church was the first church that I led in the organization of. A lot has happened since then. I look back in the ministry there in Oakdale, I was only 20-21 years old and my how the Lord blessed. When I left Oakdale I made one of the biggest mistakes of my ministry. The church didn't want me to go but I was determined to have my way and insisted on them accepting my resignation, and then the wife and I moved back to Arkansas. I soon learned that it doesn't pay to be stubborn and have your own way, One should seek the will of the Lord and also respect the wishes of the church that you're working with.”

## Sixteenth Annual Session

### of the *California State Missionary Baptist Association*

**March 31 –April 4, 1947**

#### NAMES AND LOCATIONS OF CHURCHES, PASTORS AND CLERKS

OAKDALE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH—Oakdale, California

Pastor—Douglas Perdue, P. O. Box 1154, Oakdale, California

Clerk—Maybell Lockhart, Route 2, Box 270, Oakdale, California

#### ORDAINED MINISTERS

OAKDALE—Douglas Perdue

#### MESSENGERS

OAKDALE—Petitionary Letter

#### DEACONS

OAKDALE—W. O. Perdue, G. A. Williams, Earl Oliver, Richard Perdue

#### BUSINESS PROCEEDINGS

Petitionary letters were read from the following Churches: Oakdale, Castroville, San Jose and Bakersfield.

Motion seconded to seat the messengers. Carried. Bro. Scott gave right hand of fellowship on behalf of the messengers.

#### OBITUARIES

"The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." 1 Corinthians 15:26.  
Oakdale; Eld. W. A. Davis

#### STATISTICAL REPORT

<b>Membership</b>			
<b>Gain—Loss</b>			
1946	26	Pastor's Salary	264.00
Baptism	10	<b>Home Missions</b>	20.00
Letter	3	All Other Expenses	1,628.00
Otherwise	7		
Increase	20		
Letter	1		
Exclusion	—		
Death	—		
Decrease	1		
Present Membership	45		

# First MBC-Oakdale In the News & Baptist Records

## Congratulations Oakdale on 125 years of community.

*We're proud to be a part of your spiritual development and history.*

The First Missionary Baptist Church of Oakdale was established on January 3, 1947 with 22 charter members from the First Missionary Baptist Church in Riverbank.

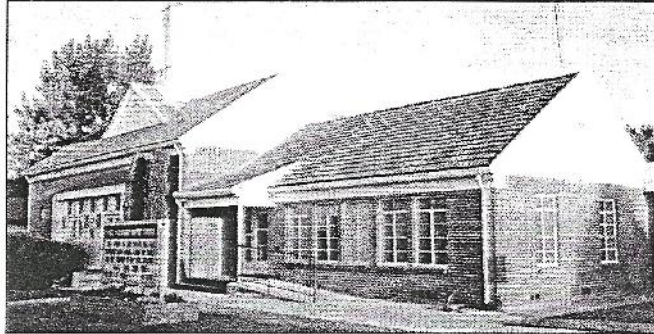
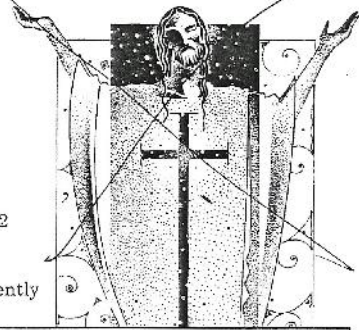
The group was led by Elder L.D. Perdue, then a young seminary student from Little Rock, Arkansas. The church purchased property and built on the corner of 'G' St. and East Ave., currently the site of Taco Bell and the Apostolic Assembly Church.

In December of 1977, under the leadership of Pastor Richard Paslay, the church purchased its present building from the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, and is currently pastored by Clifford P. Creel.

All are invited to attend services each week; Sunday School at 9:45a.m. and Worship at 10:50a.m. On Wednesday evenings the Youth Choir practices during the Adult Bible Study Hour at 7 pm.

In January 1997, the church will be celebrating special Homecoming Services featuring former pastors as guest speakers, gospel singing, and memorial services honoring all deceased members. All former members and friends are invited to attend.

The church will be publishing more details later, or will provide information to you now if you call 847-6204.



## First Missionary Baptist Church of Oakdale

1141 WALNUT ST., OAKDALE • 847-6204

## Clippings from the Local News

### Church boasts 50 years of traditional focus

By STEPHEN ROBERSON  
Staff Writer

It was 1947, a new year had just been ushered in and World War II history books hadn't even found their way to the printers yet.

On Jan. 3 of that year, the First Missionary Baptist Church of Oakdale was officially established.

The church is commemorating its 50th anniversary, highlighted by a weekend-long celebration starting Saturday at 1 p.m.

And while change has become the norm with many churches, Pastor Clifford Creel believes what sets the First Missionary Baptist Church of Oakdale apart is its resistance to becoming too modern.

"We're not really looking for change," he said. "We want to stay the same type of church we have for the past 50 years. I'm not saying we want to be like certain groups that freeze in a certain century as far as dress and customs."

"But we believe that since the doctrines — the practices of the church — are older than 50 years, we should maintain the same practices the church has always maintained."

That reliance on tradition has been a key element of the church for the past 50 years.

It's changed pastors, it's changed members, and it's even changed buildings, moving to its current location at 1141 Walnut Ave. in 1978 after 31 years at the corner of East and G Streets.

But it hasn't changed its focus.

That ultimate focus, Creel said, is achieved through the work of missionaries.

The First Missionary Church of Oakdale has a long, successful history of missions.

It was the Oakdale church's work that helped root churches in Madesto, Ripon and Escalon, to name a few.

"We've always supported missions," Creel said. "Missions are basically the way we spread the gospel. It's the way we establish churches."

Not too many charter members remain. Many have



A familiar sight on Walnut Avenue, the First Missionary Baptist Church is celebrating its 50th anniversary this weekend.

moved on, many have passed away, and a few are still in the area but are no longer members.

There are, however, many who have been with the church for a long time.

Cornelia and John Stewart joined the church in 1956, and for the past 40 years, they have been regulars three times a week.

Cornelia Stewart cites the members' unity as holding a special place in her heart.

"I think the main thing about the church is that we've always stuck together," she said. "We are all there to hear God's word and share in God's blessing."

And this is an important time for her fellow members to be by her and her husband's side.

John Stewart, who was ordained as a deacon in 1960, has been seriously ill.

His ailing health has left him unable to attend services, but it hasn't left him without the love of his fellow church members.

Cornelia Stewart said support from others has been vital to her husband of 52 years.

"They call, they come by and visit all the time. They really are a blessing."

This weekend's celebration will feature plenty of the church's history.

Brother L.D. Perdue, the church's first pastor in 1947, will be the featured speaker Sunday morning. He is scheduled to speak at about 11 a.m.

Saturday's speakers will be Brother Richard Paslay and Brother Sonny Williams.

Paslay had the longest tenure as the church's pastor, from 1976 to 1987. He will begin speaking between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Williams, a charter member, will be the first speaker at 1:30 p.m.

Boundless Joy of Martin, a Christian gospel musical group, will perform Saturday afternoon between 2:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Dinner is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Saturday.



# First MBC-Oakdale In the News & Baptist Records

## Oakdale News Potpourri

### The Baptist Trumpet

#### OAKDALE NEWS

The Oakdale church has called Brother Clyde Murphy as pastor. He will be already moved onto the field by the time this is read. May the Lord bless this union of church and under-shepherd.

The Oakdale church is calling for the ordained help of the churches to meet with them at 7 p. m. Friday, Oct. 26th for the purpose of examining and ordaining Brother Bob Roderick to the full work of the ministry (if he passes the examination.) The Oakdale church has a new pastor, Bro. Murphy. They gave him a unanimous call. May the Lord bless that great church with their new pastor. *Bapt. Trumpeter 10-51*

October 1951

*Bapt. Trumpet 10-15-52*

OAKDALE: The first Missionary Baptist Church of Oakdale, Calif., at Sept. 3rd for our annual election. The meeting was one of accord and sweet fellowship. All new officers and teachers were elected, except our pastor, Bro. Murphy, Deo Burch, Treasurer and Ethel Hanna, church clerk. We believe we have a staff of teachers in our church that would be hard for any church to beat. Headed by such able men and women as Bro's Joseph Graham, Deo Burch, Monte Mabry, and Sisters Sara Jenkins and Annie Perdue. We are expecting great results from our Sunday School and training courses.

Our attendance keeps growing steadily. Our record attendance now being 111, but by God's Grace and mercy and our continued efforts we hope to soon have twice that number. We will, The Lord willing, dedicate our new building Nov. 1st and 2nd and we hereby invite everyone far and near to be with us for that happy occasion.

Oakdale is justly proud of her Ladies and the great work they are doing for the Masters cause. First, they meet every Thursday to study the Word, currently they are studying the Book of Acts. In the past year they have raised \$600.41. The greater part of which they have put on our building fund, but now are making regular payments on the new piano. They have purchased rubber runners

October 1952

### The Baptist Signal

#### "True To Form"

The First Missionary Baptist Church of Oakdale has experienced something in the past year that her sister churches should know of.

After Brother Allen Tabor resigned the Church here, the Church called one Elder Clyde Murphy for Pastor. He came to them as being "Neutral" - except daily private prayer, and then you pray remember was for neither, and that He N.A.B.A., however, "But without for being against the N.A.B.A. School, the A.B.A. Literature, and the preacher Brethren who were in harmony with the A.B.A. After some time he tried to inject the N.A.B.A. literature into the Church, but to no avail. When he saw that he could not pull the Church into the Naber movement, and that the Church had about all of him they could stand, he resigned. However, he took members out with him who were only deceived by him, no doubt.

Please observe that such a preacher will deny his own work for a while, in order to try to get in and deceive the people.

The Oakdale Church has always been in sympathy with the work of the American Baptist Association. However, she was not informed of the Naber tricks when she called Elder Murphy. God gave her the victory over this trick, for which we are thankful. —L.M.B.

June 1, 1953

### March 1958

Page 3

#### Oakdale Revival

We, at Oakdale Church are on the mountaintops because of the wonderful goodness of God, during our recent protracted meeting, from February 23 to March 2. The Saviour was lifted up, and the Holy Spirit was there in great power, as Brother Lawrence Crawford brought the gospel messages with force and simplicity. Nine souls, during this glorious week of services professed a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and at the same time presented themselves to the Church for baptism. A couple, who had previously submitted themselves to the Church for membership, upon promise of letters from con-

October 1952



### The Missionary Baptist Herald

#### Meet The Students

Herald-Fresno

By: Judy Pevehouse

Feb. 1986

Bro. Jeffrey Roadcap, a first year student at F.M.B.I., was saved and baptized in 1977, and he surrendered to preach in the fall of 1985. He and his wife, Carla, (pictured above) are members of the First Landmark MBC in Visalia. Jeffrey and Carla have a son, Keith, age 20 months, and are anticipating the arrival of another baby in February.

Jeffrey works as a hair-stylist at David Michael's in Visalia, a favorable situation since David is a brother in Christ and also a member of the Visalia Church. Jeffrey usually gets up at 4:00 a.m. and studies until 6:00. Then he goes to school from 7:45 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., and he is then back in Visalia to start work by 2:00 p.m. His workday ends between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. His school week is Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and his work week is Tuesday through Saturday.

Bro. Jeffrey claims Romans 8:28 because he believes God provided him a job that allows him the freedom to attend F.M.B.I.

Bro. Roadcap's goal is to pastor a thriving church like the New Testament churches at Antioch and Jerusalem. He does not feel that that desire is naive since God still wants



Jeff and Carla Roadcap

to accomplish great things through his churches today.

An outstanding characteristic of Jeffrey is his sense of humor. He livens the classes he is in, and makes it enjoyable for people to be around him. As someone once said, "One of the most important things a man can have up his sleeve is a funny bone." When Bro. Roadcap begins to pastor, a definite asset to his ministry will be his sense of humor, making him more personable, and helping to ease the tension of the vocation.

February 1986

### The Baptist Sentinel

vention churches, decided to be done with doubting, and wholeheartedly aligned themselves with the Lord's churches by baptism. It was with much rejoicing that our people watched this family, the father, the mother, and two young boys, saved during the revival, also a niece, saved during the revival, all go down into the water together in obedience to the Lord's command. One young man, a grandson of some of our oldest and most beloved members, the Mabrys, came into the Church upon promise of a letter from a Missionary Baptist Church in Whitesboro, Texas, and upon the last night of the services, this same young man came forward and declared with much conviction his surrender to the calling of the ministry.

It is wonderful and a cause for great rejoicing to have souls saved, and to see people converted from error, but to some of us, the most blessed happening of all was this young man's surrender, for everything that happened during this great meeting, the souls saved, baptisms, additions to the Church, and dedication to a life of service, our grateful hearts say "Praise the Lord." Pray for us that we here at Oakdale will fully submit to the Lord, for this meeting leaves us no room for doubt that He can do great things

Ethel Hanna  
Church Clerk

# First MBC-Oakdale In the News & Baptist Records

## Association Notes

1947 Northern Missionary Baptist Association

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH—Oakdale, Calif.  
Organized January 3, 1947. Present membership 73. The articles of faith as found in Bogard's "Baptist Way Book," was read and adopted. We are without a pastor at the present time. We send as messengers, Bro. and Sister Othiel Perdue and Charles Oliver. By order of the Church in conference the 3rd day of Nov., 1947.

J. D. BURCH, Moderator  
MAEBELLE LOCKHART, Clerk

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## Seventh Annual Session California Missionary Baptist Association March 23, 25, 1948

**Messengers**

Oakdale: Eld. and Mrs. W. P. Griffith

**Names, and Locations of Churches, Pastors and Clerks**

**Oakdale Missionary Baptist Church**  
Pastor—Eld. W. P. Griffin, Gen. Delivery, Oakdale, California.  
Clerk—Maebelle Lockhart, Rt. 2, Box 270, Oakdale, California.

**ORDAINED MINISTERS**

**Oakdale**—Elds. W. P. Griffin, W. R. Lockhart.

**LICENSED MINISTERS**

**Oakdale**—Joe Spradlin, Charles Oliver, Charles Lockhart.

## *Sacramento Valley Missionary Baptist Association Chronological List of Moderators and Clerks*

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MOERATOR</u>	<u>CLERK</u>
1961	Joe Spradlin	G. A. Williams
1962—63	L. D. Perdue	Henry Nance
1964—65	George N. Walton	Henry Nance
1966	G. A. Williams	Ray L. Owens
1967	L. E. McCalister	Ray L. Owens
1968—69	Thomas L. Counts	Ray L. Owens
1970	Thomas L. Counts	L. E. McCalister
1971—72	George N. Walton	Roger Bowline
1973	George N. Walton	John Stevens
1974	George N. Walton	Raymond Bynum
1975—76	Edgar A. Sharver	Raymond Bynum
1977—78	Pat Christian	Raymond Bynum
1979—80	Tom Van Ginkel	Raymond Bynum
1981	G. A. Williams	Raymond Bynum
1982—83	George N. Walton	Robert B. Williams
1984—85	Pat Christian	Robert B. Williams
1986—87	Roger Bowline	Robert B. Williams
1988—89	John Stevens	O. B. Tilley
1990—91	Earl Walker	O. B. Tilley
1992—93	Jeff Roadcap	Robert W. Cullifer
1994—96	Robert B. Williams	Robert W. Cullifer
1997	William Drybread	Robert W. Cullifer
1998—99	William Drybread	David W. Keeling
2000	O. E. Hall	David W. Keeling
2001—02	Houston Kelley	David W. Keeling
2003	Jay Ross	David W. Keeling
2004	Houston Kelley	Debra L. Cullifer
2005—06	M. D. Keeling	Roger Bowline
2007	Dennis Wharton	Roger Bowline
2008—10	Tim Chambers	Roger Bowline
2011—12	Walter Petree II	Roger Bowline
2013—14	Andy Beaver	Roger Bowline
2015	Houston Kelley	Roger Bowline
2016	Houston Kelley	Deb Cullifer

## *Second Oldest Church in the Sacramento Valley Missionary Baptist Association*

### *Church Dates of Organization*

May 19, 1940	Riverbank
January 3, 1947	Oakdale
May 18, 1950	Missionary, Merced

## *Sacramento Valley Missionary Baptist Association*

### *Meeting Dates & Places*

1—September 10 & 11, 1965	Oakdale
2—September 6/7, 1985	Oakdale
3—September 11/12, 1987	Oakdale
4—September 7/8, 2001	Oakdale
5—September 17/18, 2010	Oakdale

# First MBC-Oakdale In the News & Baptist Records

## Historical Lineage of the First Missionary Baptist Church of Oakdale, California Prepared by L. D. Perdue, September, 1996

In writing a lineage of the church, it is to be understood that the history of the local church can be traced through letters of charter members from their church or through the Missionary leading out in the work and the church that sent him out to do mission work or through the Sponsoring Church, if there was one or through the associational affiliation of the church. Sponsoring churches are of recent practice. However, it has long been a practice to have a council of wise and experience pastors and deacons to set in counsel at the organization of the church and advise the new church.

1. The First Missionary Baptist Church of Oakdale, CA was organized January 3, 1947. (See church file.) Missionary Luther Douglas Perdue led in the work. All the Charter Members going into the organization did so with letters from the First Missionary Baptist Church of Riverbank, CA.

2. The First Missionary Baptist Church of Riverbank, California was organized May 19, 1940 under the leadership of Missionary J. R. Bowers, sent out by Hebron Heights Missionary Baptist Church. (Now known as the First Missionary Baptist Church of Salinas, CA) Elder John Cooper and other members of Hebron Heights church assisted in the organization. (See petitionary letter, 1940 Minute Book of the Northern California Missionary Baptist Association.)

3. The Hebron Heights Missionary Baptist Church was organized under the leadership of State endorsed Missionary R. Y. Blalock on August 11, 1935. Brother Blalock and his family went into the organization with letters from the Caldwell, Idaho regular Baptist Church. 13 other charter members went into the organization of the church. (See Pacific coast Baptist 9-35, minutes of the Caldwell church, 7-14-35 and 10-13-35.)

Side Note: From The Landmark Baptist Historian, June 2011 Vol. 1—Num. 2, Prepared by Robert W. Cullifer

### Rueben Young Blalock Comes to California

"...On October 13, 1934 he made a trip to California preaching or visiting at Lake City, Mt. Shasta, Roseville, Ceres, Sanger, Ducor, Porterville, Taft, Bellflower, "Gloria Gardens," Pomona, Tracy, Oroville, Maxwell, and other places before returning home in Idaho on March 8, 1935. On May 29 he had a sale of household goods and packed the rest for shipment to California. The next day, May 30, 1935, he left for California.

After preaching or stopping in Roseville, Ceres, Salinas, San Jose, Santa Rosa, and Ukiah he returned to Salinas and preached on Sunday, July 28, 1935. On August 11 "the Hebron Heights Missionary Baptist Church was organized in the Salinas High School building."

Excerpt from: *The Roots of California Southern Baptists 1890 - 1940* by Sam Harvey, page 106 (copied from Blalock Journal)

Originally published in History of the West Coast Landmark Baptist Volume 1, page 23, Compiled by L. D. Perdue

4. The Caldwell Missionary Baptist Church, (a regular Baptist Church, not to be confused with the G.A.R.B.) was organized under the leadership of R. Y. Blalock, Missionary for the Eastern Baptist Association of California and Oregon and the Middle Oregon Association January 30, 1927. (See Minutes and Program of Caldwell church.)

5. The tracing of our churches from the Middle Oregon and the Eastern Baptist Association of California and Oregon can easily be done, including charter members of some of our churches in the mid-1800s from the Philadelphia Association of regular Baptist. The first Baptist Church in Newport, Rhode Island was represented in the formation of the Philadelphia Association.

Facsimile of the February 2, 1935, Endorsement of Blalock by the Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Roseville.

Roseville Calif  
Feb 2 - 1935

The Landmark Missionary Baptist Church gave Elder R. Y. Blalock of Caldwell Idaho the following recommendation

We the regular Landmark Missionary Baptist church of Roseville in regular conference do endorse and recommend Elder R. Y. Blalock of Caldwell Idaho as a missionary for our state and wherever the Holy Spirit may lead him

We have known him for six years and have known of him many years as a faithful missionary and pastor on the Pacific coast

We are glad to be able to recommend him to others who may not know him as a sound and true preacher of Gods word, and we pray God to be with him and bless him in mission work in this state

We ask all who are concerned for the lost to join with us in our prayers and with your means to help support as he goes forth carrying the Gospel to the lost.

Spone by order of the church in regular conference this second day of Feb - 1935. (shown in 1935)

Chester Hunt Moderator  
Ethel Foyle Church clerk

Whatever route is chosen, historical evidence abounds.

## First MBC-Oakdale In the News & Baptist Records

### Baptist Traced From The Apostles and Christ To America.

For most of the following information we are indebted to the late Elder R. Y. Blalock in his book "Baptists Traced from the Apostles to America". It will be seen that the Landmark Missionary Baptist Church, worshipping at 1031 Sieber Street, can trace her origin through the centuries from Christ and the apostles by an unbroken chain of predecessors.

1. John the beloved disciple, baptized by John the Baptist, a charter member of the Jerusalem Church, which Jesus organized. Luke 6:12-16; Matt. 18:18; Acts 1:21-22.
2. John the beloved disciple baptized Polycarp, A. D. 90. Neander's church history, page 285.
3. Polycarp organized Partus Church, A. D. 150. Cyrus Commentary of Antiquity, page 924.
4. Turtullan came from Partus Church and organized the Turan Church, A. D. 237. Armitage Church History, page 182.
5. Tellestman came from Turan Church and organized Pontifossi Church, A. D. 394. Noland's Church History, Vol. 2, page 318.
6. Andromicus came from Pontifossi Church and organized Darthea Church, A. D. 671. Lambert's Church History, page 47.
7. Archer Flavin came from Darethea Church and organized Timto Church, A. D. 738. Mosheim Church History, page 394.
8. Balcolao came from Timto Church and organized Lima Piedmont Church, A. D. 812. Neander's Church History, Vol. 2, page 320.
9. Aaron Arington came from Lima Piedmont Church, A. D. 897 and organized the Hilcliff Church. Jones' History, page 324. Many churches were organized in Wales and England from Hilcliff Baptist Church.
10. Elder John Clark came from England and organized Newport Baptist Church in Rhode Island, the first Baptist Church in America, A. D. 1638. J. R. Graves, "First Baptist Church in America", page 13.
11. Elder H. Roller came direct from Hillcliff Baptist Church to Philadelphia Baptist Association in A. D. 1809, and organized many churches in the United States. See Minutes of the Philadelphia Association.
12. The Philadelphia Association was formed in 1707. Missionary Baptist Churches in that association sent missionaries down into N. Carolina and established many Missionary Baptist Churches which formed in North Carolina Associations known as Sandy Creek, Kehukee, Kestockton and Roan Mountain. See Baptist Confessions by William L. Lumpkin, page 353.
13. Elder R. Y. Blalock was baptized by the Grassy Creek Missionary Baptist Church of the Roan Mountain Association and came to the West Coast in 1896 and organized churches in Idaho and Washington.

**"...unity in essentials and in non-essentials there should be liberty."**



Dr. T. T. Eaton, the great editor of the Western Recorder for about twenty five years, and one of the soundest of the sound Baptist, and who was a personal friend of this editor, frequently asserted that we should not be intolerant toward those who do not agree with us and should insist on unity in essentials and in non-essentials there should be liberty.

# Sherry Marlene Townsend

## Obituary/Eulogy—Dr. Larry Crouch



### Celebration of Life for Presented by Larry Crouch

May I preface these few words about our dear Sister with some words from King Solomon: Proverbs 31:10-12, 25-28 “Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price *is* far above rubies. <sup>11</sup>The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. <sup>12</sup>She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. <sup>25</sup>Strength and honour *are* her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. <sup>26</sup>She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue *is* the law of kindness. <sup>27</sup>She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. <sup>28</sup>Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband *also*, and he praiseth her.”

Sherry was born on December 23, 1946 in Pittsburg, California to Bill and Lois Douglas. She went home to be her Lord and Savior on Sunday Morning November 20, 2016, 69 years, 11 months and 5 days.

Her father and mother, Bill and Lois Douglas, her brother Ed, her sister Janel and her son Rodney, preceded her in death.

She is survived in this life by her husband of 51 plus years, her son Steven, Grandchildren Seth, Amanda, Joey, Sydnie and Bobbie and Great grandchildren Hailey and Maverick along with many nieces, nephews and friends.

Some important dates in her life first of all was when she was saved and baptized as a teenager in the First Missionary Baptist Church of Brentwood. This spiritual happening made a gracious and wonderful difference in her life and made all the difference at the time of her passing from her into eternity. The second date, at least according to George, was June 18, 1965, only one week after graduating High School, she and George tied the knot the stayed knotted for 51 plus years.

Sherry lived in Brentwood, Oakley and Antioch. In the mid 70s George surrender to the Gospel ministry and they sold their house in Antioch in 1975 and used the money to move to Glendora, California and joined the church where I was pastor in San Dimas (later we moved to Rowland Heights). George and I worked together at Azusa Pacific College and we rode together Monday through Friday to the Seminary in Bellflower.

Sherry never complained about the move. She always supported George and the work in the ministry. From Glendora they moved to Cloverdale to work with the Missionary Baptist Church there and then to pastor Freedom Missionary Baptist Church and then to pastor Folsom Missionary Baptist Church and for the last three decades at least, they have lived in Sacramento.

Sherry loved to sing and was part of a girl’s quartet along with Marilu, Gerry and Yvonne. When Larry, Ken and George joined they were simply called “THE GROUP.” Sherry also served as the President of the State Ladies Auxiliary along with all the other duties that goes with being a preacher’s wife.

I asked George what taught him about the Lord: He answered, “What it is to be a patient and loving preacher’s wife. George used the words, “EXCEPTIONAL WOMAN” to describe Sherry.

Sherry loved to do crafts, sew and art. Making cards was one of her favorite things. Many of you here today no doubt have been the recipient on one of her hand made cards. Several of the cards are on display here today; please take the time to look at them.

Being married to George there was no doubt always some funny things happening. One such event happened while they were horse-back riding. Sherry was all saddled up and slowly going along with her feet just dangling down. When all of a sudden her horse got spooked, reared up, and took off in a gallop with Sherry hanging on around the horse’s neck. When they got the horse stopped, George said, Okay, no more trick riding.

George liked to try (try being the operative word) and help Sherry in the kitchen. As she was trying to cook, he would be picking up pot, pans, spoons and other things and start washing them. This sounds like a good thing – right? NO. Because Sherry would have to stop George and tell him, “I’m not through with that yet! This became her pet peeve? “Just let me cook – lets eat – and then you can do the dishes.” Did you ever get that right Buddy?

George let me say “you did get this right.” In his own words George wrote, “She always let me feel like I was the boss. She supported me in everything I tried to do. She laughed at my corny jokes and patiently (most of the time) tolerated all my teasing. I could never have asked for a more faithful, loving mate than what God gave me in Sherry. I will miss her terribly and I am anxiously looking for that day when we will be together again.”

I have some very cherished memories of this family going back to when George and I were in our young teens. We have been privileged over the years to share both laughter and tears together, but most of all we have rejoiced with each other in the Lord.

When can rejoice today for there is no doubt that Sherry Marlene Douglas Townsend was welcomed home to heaven and heard the wonderful words from our Savior, Jesus Christ: “*Well done, thou good and faithful servant.*” You will be missed here by you family and many friends, but praise the Lord I did not come here today to say good-bye. I came to smile and rejoice over these fond memories and the assurance that we will meet again one day soon in the realm of glory. So long for just a little while dear sister and friend, we will see you in the morning over there. — Let us pray:

# The Field

## Rev. C. R. Hendrickson

For the evangel.

### The Field

#### No. 4

The field needs culture. Vast portions are lying waste, and demand attention.—How to meet this demand is a serious question, and, in our present circumstances, difficult to answer. We have been accustomed to look to the East for our supply of ministerial labor. However wise and necessary this policy may have been heretofore, it is becoming evident, that the time for dependence on that source of supply is rapidly passing away. Our infant churches are increasing so rapidly that the Home Boards of the North and South, have neither the men nor the money to provide them with pastoral labor. At the best, we cannot expect the Mission Board to supply more than a very few central points, while hundreds of square miles are left destitute. What can be done to meet the wants of this great field, but to look to God, for a ministry from our own churches? We are encouraged to "Pray that the Lord of the harvest would send forth laborers." Already many young men are responding to the call of God, and committing themselves to the work of the Ministry. Here is a source of supply that may be unfailing, and fully adequate to the demands of this immense and inviting field. But however pious and devoted the young men of our churches may be, as a general thing, they have not the requisite training and theological knowledge, to make them eminently useful as Evangelists or Pastors. By many years of arduous toil and wearying study, early disadvantages may be overcome, and great eminence for piety and usefulness be attained; but a wise Christian economy approves the plan that can secure the same end in the shortest possible period. It is certainly better to acquire the elements of extensive and permanent usefulness within three or four years, than to exhaust fifteen or twenty years in the acquisition.

It appears to us, therefore, that one of the most pressing necessities on this coast, is a good Theological School; this is more needed than a literary institution. A mere College education is no preparation for a Ministerial or Pastoral life. It forms the basis of professional study, whether of law, medicine, or theology, but it gives no instruction in either department. Had we a College of the very highest class, we should still need "a school for the prophets." No attainments in the classics, or mathematics, or natural sciences, can become substitutes for Biblical interpretation, Theology, Ecclesiastical history, and Pastoral Duties. As the Churches of Christ we do not absolutely need a College, but a school of Theology is imperatively demanded. We have now candidates for the ministry whose previous classical education has prepared them to enter upon professional study. And others we have, who are prepared to take a modified course of ministerial study, that would qualify them to become very useful men in winning souls to Christ. Here is a valuable class of men, for whom the Churches of California should make provision at once; that provision must be in the form of a Theological school, well arranged and well endowed.

With such a school as this, fostered by the prayers and munificence of God's people, we shall now have such accessions to our ministerial ranks, as to be able to occupy every part of this great field, and to plant the standard of salvation all over the adjacent territories.

—C. R. H.

THE EVANGEL:

D. B. Cheney, Editor And Proprietor  
San Francisco.

Thursday Morning, November 15, 1860.  
Volume 3—Number 16.

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STEPHEN HILDEN, PROPRIETOR.

**SAN FRANCISCO, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1860.**

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