

LANDMARK BAPTIST HISTORIAN

Published by Landmark Baptist Church - Folsom, California

April 2017

Volume 6 ~ Number 10

"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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2012 Yearbook—Page 170



LARRY CROUCH is a writer of the *Adult Lesson Commentary*. He is a native of California, saved and baptized at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Sacramento, CA, in 1952. He surrendered to preach on August 4, 1957, at the Bayshore Missionary Baptist Church in Vallejo, CA. Brother Crouch received his Bachelor of Theology Degree from California Missionary Baptist Institute in Bellflower, California, in 1976. He remained with the school for several years and taught Major and Minor Prophets, Pastoral and Prison Epistles, Hermeneutics and Journalism. He is a member of the California and the American Baptist Association History and Archives Committees. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1998 and received the Master and Doctor of Theology degrees in 2005 all from the Fresno Missionary Baptist Institute in Fresno, CA.

He has pastored in Washington and California and currently is pastoring Oakhurst Missionary Baptist Church. He and his wife, Joyce, and son, Zachary make their home in Oakhurst, CA. His address is PO Box 336, Oakhurst, CA 93644.

2005 ABA
Pictorial Directory

Dr. Larry W. Crouch

Tribute Edition

Crouch, Larry (ABA)



Brother Larry was born August 30, 1942 in Tuolumne, California. He was saved and baptized by the Friendship MBC in Sacramento. He surrendered to preach and was licensed by the Vallejo MBC, in 1958. He was ordained by the South Gate FMBC in 1964.

He is a graduate of CMBI. He taught in CMBI. He received his Doctorate from FMBI and is now teaching at FMBI.

He pastored MBC in Auburn, Washington from 1963-66; MBC in San Fernando 1967; LMBC in Porterville from 1968-71; FMBC in Riverbank from 1971-72; Calvary MBC in Rowland Heights from 1972-79; Emmanuel MBC in Martinez from 1980-83; LMBC in San Jose from 1984-86; Bethel MBC in Oakley as Associate pastor from 1987-90 and pastor from 1991-2007; and Landmark MBC of Oakhurst since 2008.

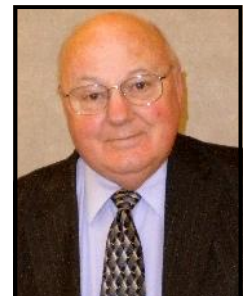
Larry serves on both the State and national History and Archives committee and has been a Sunday School literature writer since 1993. He wrote *The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail* and *Major and Minor Prophets*.

The History of Landmark Baptists of California - Who We Are
Volume 2 - Pastors - Churches - Schools - Programs Pages 53 & 54

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 The Cooperative Association of Missionary Baptist
 Churches of California
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State Association
File Photo

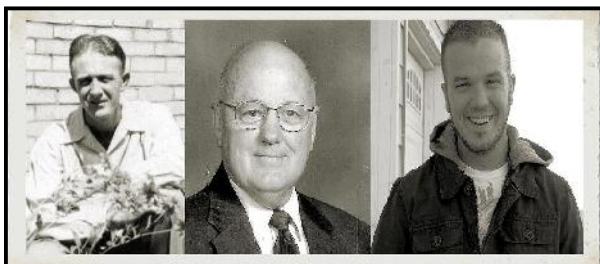


History & Archives Committee—American Baptist Association Missionary Baptist Biological Form

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



—Cullifer Photo Files



**Three Generations of God Called Ministers
Left to Right—Charles, Larry, & Zak**

Copied from Zak's Facebook Page

ABA Form 1 (1989)

Please type HISTORY AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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

Thanks.

Attach a black/white picture of this person here.

Offering Enclosed:

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

MISSIONARY BAPTIST
BIOGRAPHICAL FORM

(For pastors, missionaries, preachers, etc.)

- Name: CROUCH LARRY WAYNE
(last) (first) (middle)
- Birth: Toulumne Toulumne CA 8/30/42
(county) (town) (state/country) (date)
- Death: _____
(county) (town) (state/country) (date)
- Parents: CHARLES HERCHELL ELIZABETH ANN (KEELING)
(father) (mother)
- Lived at: (post office) (county) (state/country) (dates-years)

a. <u>Toulumne</u>	<u>Toulumne</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>42-43</u>
b. <u>EL NIÑO</u>	<u>MERCED</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>44</u>
c. <u>MADERA</u>	<u>MADERA</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>45</u>
d. <u>ARMONA</u>	<u>KINGS</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>46-48</u>
e. <u>SALINAS</u>	<u>MONTEREY</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>49-50</u>
f. <u>SACRAMENTO</u>	<u>SACRAMENTO</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>51-53</u>
- Education: (institution) (city) (state/country) (dates) (degree)

a. High school	<u>SR. HIGH</u>	<u>Vallejo</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>DIPLOMA</u>
b. College/seminary	<u>C.M.B.I</u>	<u>REDFIELD</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>TH.B.</u>
c. Graduate school					
d. Other (specify)					
- Special awards or honors: V.P. Student Body C.M.B.I
- Spouse: Joyce ELMORE ORKEY CA 10/11/86
(name) (maiden name) (place of marriage) (date)
- Children: (name) (date of birth) (date of death)

<u>LANCE</u>	<u>6/8/63</u>	
<u>KARI (TAPLEY)</u>	<u>2/21/92</u>	
<u>ZACHARY</u>	<u>9/22/89</u>	
- Vocations, occupations, trades, or professions, other than minister:
- Fraternal or group memberships:
- Spiritual information:

conversion:	<u>6/52</u>	<u>FRIENDSHIP M.B.C</u>	<u>SACRAMENTO</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>8/52</u>
	(date)	(baptized-church)	(location)		(date)
licensed:	<u>5/58</u>	<u>BAYSHORE M.B.C.</u>	<u>Vallejo</u>	<u>CA</u>	
	(date)	(church)	(location)		
ordained:	<u>5/63</u>	<u>F.M.B.C.</u>	<u>SOUTH GATE</u>	<u>CA</u>	
	(date)	(church)	(location)		

**History & Archives Committee—American Baptist Association
Missionary Baptist Biological Form—page 2**

13. Local church offices held, other than pastor:

- a. ___ deacon b. ___ trustee c. ___ church clerk d. ___ church treas.
e. X choir director f. X other (specify) PIANIST - TEACHER

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

(position)	(location)	(type of service)	(dates-years)
V.P.	C.M.B.I	STUDENT BODY	75-76
MODERATOR	SO. CALIF.	ASSOCIATION	77-78
HISTORY-ARC.	CALIF	COOP ASSOC.	90-
HISTORY ARC	A.B.A.		92

15. Churches pastored:

(church)	(address)	(state/country)	(dates-years)
M.B.C.	422 3RD ST. NE	AUBURN WA	63-66
M.B.C.	LADIES CLUB	SAN FERNANDO CA	67
LANDMARK M.B.C.	1435 SPRINGVILLE	PORTERVILLE CA	68-71
F.M.B.C.	6TH & SIERRA ST.	RIVERBANK CA	71-72
CALVARY M.B.C.		ROWLAND HTS CA	72-79
EMMANUEL M.B.C.	391 ARTHUR RD	MARTINEZ CA	79-83
L.M.B.C.	499 COYOTE RD.	SAN JOSE CA	84-86
BETHEL M.B.C.	280 BROWNSTONE	OAKLEY CA.	ASSOC. 87-90 PASTOR 91-

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

(title)	(publisher)	(date)
HAND BOOK FOR NEW CONVERTS + MEMBERS	SELF	89

17. Military service: _____

18. Other comments: (attach additional sheets if needed)

TALGHT. MAJOR MINOR PROPHETS, PASTORAL & PRISON EPISTLES,
HERMENEUTICS.
EDITOR OF CMBI YEARBOOK 73-78

**History & Archives Committee—American Baptist Association
Missionary Baptist Biological Form—page 3**

Attachment Noted of first page Missionary Baptist Biological Form

Post Office	County	State	dates
VALLEJO	SOLANO	CA	53-61
HUNTINGTON PARK	LA	CA	62-63
AUBURN	KING	WASH	64-66
SAN FERNANDO	LA	CA	67-68
PORTERVILLE	TULARE	CA	68-71
* SAN DIMAS	LA	CA	72-78
MARTINEZ	CONTRA COSTA	CA	79-83
SAN JOSE	SANTA CLARA	CA	84-86
OAKLEY	CONTRA COSTA	CA	87 —
* RIVERBANK	STANISLAUS	CA.	71-72



Larry Crouch

Licensed by the Vallejo Missionary Baptist Church in 1958.

Ordained by the Southgate Missionary Baptist Church in 1963.

After some question on my part about the soundness of my baptism, the East Date church of Porterville baptized me. I was then ordained by that church.

I have served:

Auburn Washington Missionary Baptist Church

San Fernando Missionary Baptist Church

Porterville East date Missionary Baptist Church

Riverbank Missionary Baptist Church

Rowland Heights Missionary Baptist Church since 1972

I have attended C. M. B. I. four years as a student and received a the ThB. Degree.

I have been on the faculty since graduation. The first year of teaching Major and Minor Prophets and Prison Epistles.

This year in addition to these I am teaching Hermeneutics and really getting a blessing from.

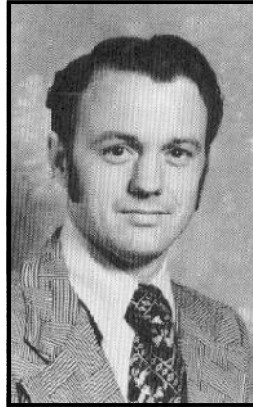
Moderator Southern California Association 1977-1978.

—From the Crouch Archives File

California Missionary Baptist Institute Years



1973—Freshman



1974—Sophomore



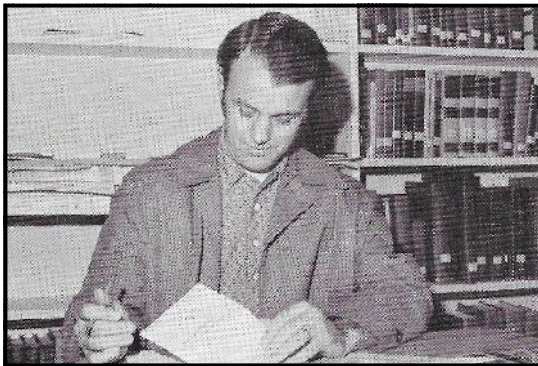
1975—Junior



1976—Senior
Vice President



1974



1974 Annual Staff



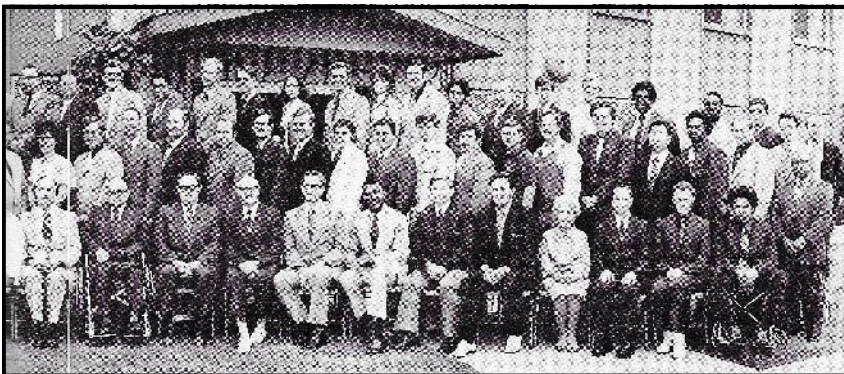
1974—Song Leader



1973-74 Student Body Officers



1975—Yearbook
Editor

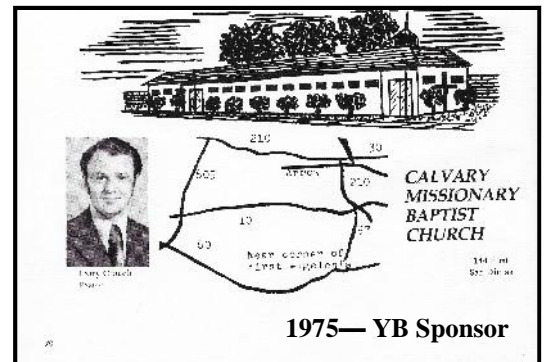


1975 CMBI Faculty & Student Official Group Photo



1978

Larry Crouch, Th.B.
Major Prophets
Pauline Epistles
Hermeneutics
Calvary M.B.C./Rowland Heights
20 years in the ministry



1975— YB Sponsor

California Missionary Baptist Institute Years



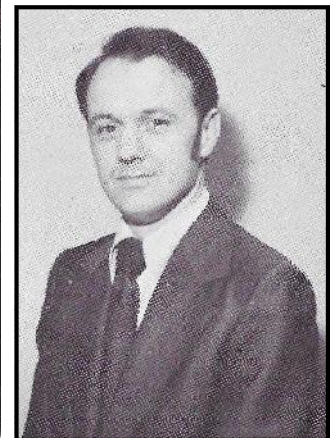
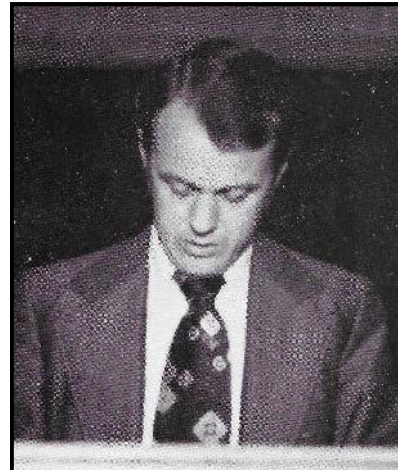
1976 CMBI—Student Officers



1976 Yearbook Advisor

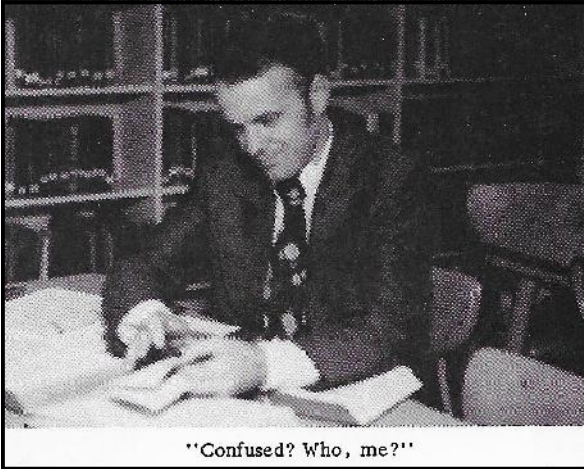


1976 Annual Staff



1977 Yearbook

California Missionary Baptist Institute Years



"Confused? Who, me?"

1977 Yearbook

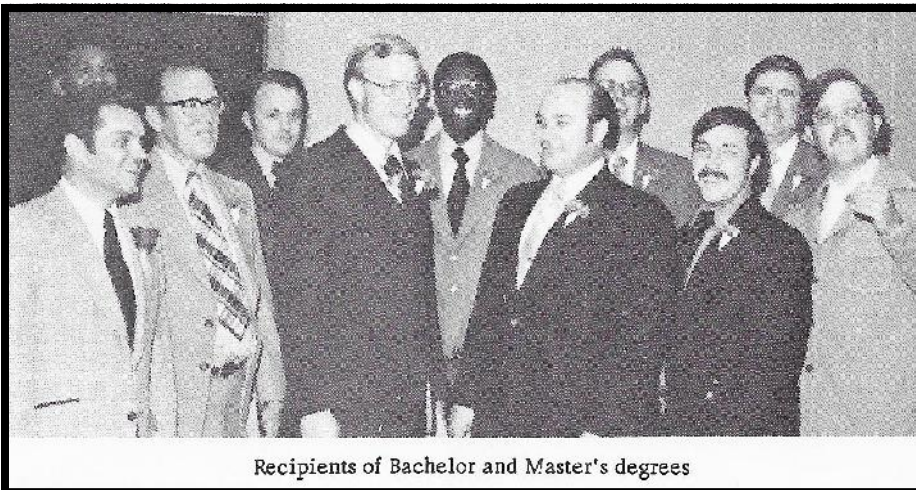


THE SPLIT RAPTURE

1977 Yearbook

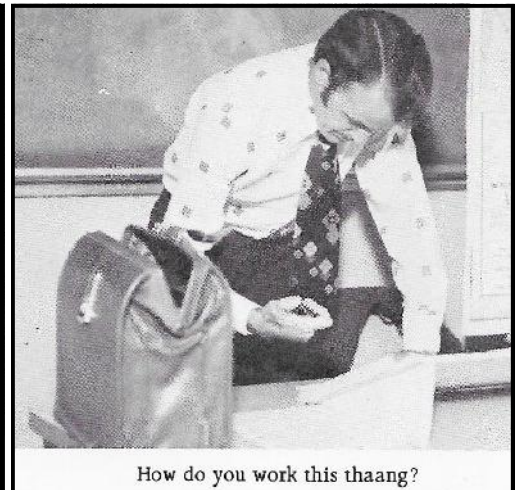


1977 Yearbook



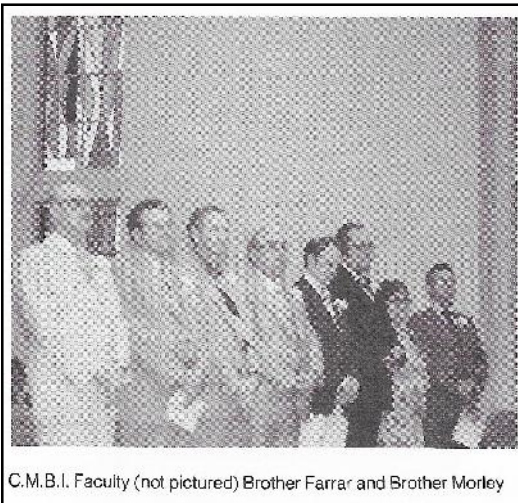
Recipients of Bachelor and Master's degrees

CMBI Graduation 1976—From 1977 Yearbook



How do you work this thaang?

1977 Yearbook



C.M.B.I. Faculty (not pictured) Brother Farrar and Brother Morley



1979 Yearbook
"Graduation" & Faculty

California Missionary Baptist Institute Years



1979 CMBI Group Photo

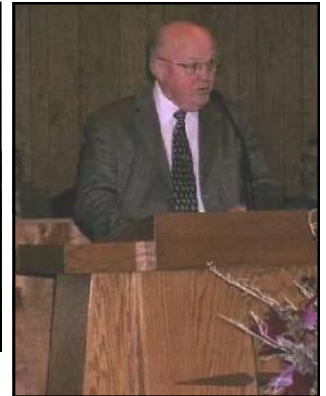


I.K. CROSS - TRAVIS HUGGARD - L. CROUCH
 NIGT MONTGOMERY - ANNE PATTERSON - RALPH SIMINGTON
 (EARL FARRAR) MARY McALISTER - LESTER McALISTER
 D.J. BOOLE MOTTEN - JUDITH CANADAN - MARTIN CANADAN
 ART RICHARDSON - JERRY HAYMINT - ROY McREID

Photo Gallery from the Cullifer Files



Cullifer, Beaver & Crouch at Highlands



Larry W. Crouch

In The Baptist Press—1963-1985

Baptist Sentinel—October 1963

Southgate, Dwight Patterson pastor.

The church has started a mission in the Hawthorne area with Bro. Larry Crouch leading in the work. Attendance there is good.

Baptist Sentinel—June 1964

Southgate, Dwight Patterson pastor.

May 31 they ordained Bro. Larry Crouch. Larry has been called to the church in Moses Lake, Wash. Bro. D.S. Madden started a revival on June 1st with this fine church.

Baptist Sentinel—December 1966

San Fernando, Larry Crouch, pstr.

Bro. Larry Crouch, a C. M.B.I. student, has accepted the work of this challenging field.

Baptist Sentinel—February 1967

San Fernando, Larry Crouch, pstr.

Bro. Sam Goin showed movies of the Hawaiian mission work Jan. 17th.

Baptist Sentinel—September 1967

Sylmar, Larry Crouch, pstr.

Bro. Lee Wright preached in a revival last month and they had 2 saved. They have voted to buy a church building.

Baptist Sentinel—September 1968

Porterville (East date)

Larry Crouch, pastor

Former C.M.B.I. student, Bro. Larry Crouch has accepted the work of this great church.

Baptist Sentinel—October 1971

Riverbank...

Welcomed their new pastor, Larry Crouch, at the end of August. They received 1 by letter and 3 by baptism Sept. 12.

Baptist Sentinel—December 1971

Riverbank...

Reports baptizing 4, receiving 1 by letter and 2 by restoration in November. Pastor Larry Crouch has organized a church choir.

Baptist Sentinel—February 1972

Riverbank...

Planned a Fifth Saturday meeting with Royce Smith, Dewey Caves, and Larry Reeves scheduled as guest speakers. They started a Young Adult Class, with an average attendance of 15. Connie Wright is the teacher.

Baptist Sentinel—July 1973

BALDWIN PARK--- is purchasing a building lot in downtown San Dimas. They need help with funds and the donation of a piano, chairs, and building materials. Contact them at Box 189, Baldwin Park, Calif. 91706.

L. W. Crouch, pastor.

—Continued on page 10

—Continued From Previous Column

Baptist Sentinel—March 1974

SAN DIMAS— enjoyed revival services recently with Monroe Patterson as evangelist 9 were saved. Larry Crouch, pastor.

Baptist Sentinel—February 1975

SAN DIMAS— church is rejoicing in the rich blessing they received during January. There were 3 saved, one of these has been baptized, the other two are awaiting baptism. They received 8 by letter and on the 26th they broke all their attendance records—62 in Sunday school, 78 in morning worship and 68 for BTC. The church will begin a building program in February. They have endorsed Glenn Redings [sic.] for mission work in the Los Angeles area.

Larry Crouch, pastor.

Baptist Sentinel—January 1977



LARRY CROUCH, Th.M.

California Missionary Baptist Institute & Seminary. Teaches Major and Minor prophets and Pauline Epistles. Pastor Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, San Dimas.

Baptist Sentinel—March 1977

Calvary Rowland Heights is also in revival with Richard Woodall as evangelist.

Larry Crouch, pastor.

Baptist Sentinel—April 1977

Calvary Rowland Heights added 6, five by baptism and one by statement, in their revival effort. In addition, Timothy Woodall announced is called to the ministry. The church is seeking the help of other congregations in meeting the down payment on their property which is due May 5. At this writing, approximately nine thousand dollars remains to be raise.

Larry Crouch, pastor.

Baptist Sentinel—October 1977

Rowland Heights increased their mission giving by 50%. Two have been added to the church by baptism. The church youth gave a surprise birthday party for the pastor recently. Since the first of this year five new families from the immediate area have been added to the congregation. Larry Crouch, pastor.

—Continued on page 10

Larry W. Crouch In The Baptist Press

—Continued From page 9

Baptist Sentinel—May 1978

Rowland Heights closed escrow on their plant and property. Two were added by baptism and a bus ministry has been organized.

Larry Crouch, pastor.

Baptist Sentinel—October 1978

Rowland Heights reports three saved, two added by statement, and four by baptism. John McClung helped recently in a very successful youth revival meeting. Led by the youth, the church gave the pastor a surprise birthday party and presented him a gift of money for his forthcoming trip to Israel.

Larry Crouch, pastor.

Baptist Sentinel—August 1979

Rowland Heights: Pastor Larry Crouch has resigned.

Baptist Sentinel February 1980

Crouch to Martinez



Larry Crouch

Bro. Larry Crouch has accepted the pastorate of the Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church of Martinez, Ca., and we wish him well in this new endeavor. Bro. Crouch is a graduate of the California Missionary Baptist Institute and Seminary, and has served also as a member of the CMBI faculty. He did a good work as pastor of the Calvary Missionary Baptist Church of Rowland Heights, Ca., formerly located in San Dimas, and we expect good reports from him at Martinez. In fact, we have a letter from the church clerk stating that they have already had four additions since Bro. Crouch came to the congregation.

Missionary Baptist Herald—May 1980

Emmanuel M. B. C.

Martinez, California.

Reports that the Lord is answered their prayers and providing them with a pastor. The church has recently called Brother Larry Crouch. Brother Crouch has accepted the work. God has blessed them with four additions by letter. Pray for this work. Sister Diane Richards, Assistant church reporter sends this good report to the Missionary Baptist Herald.

—Continued on Next Column

—Continued From Previous Column

Baptist Sentinel—September 1980

Martinez added seven by letter, two by restoration, and one more was saved and baptized. Keith Newton was the evangelist for a revival meeting August 15-19.

Larry Crouch, pastor.

Baptist Sentinel—October 1980

Martinez reports two saved and baptized, three restored to fellowship, and five added by letter. Keith Newton was the evangelist in a revival meeting that brought about a real spiritual renewal. The church set a Sunday school record September 21 with sixty-nine in Sunday School. The pastor preached a revival meeting for the Oakley church September 22-26.

Larry Crouch, pastor.

California Missionary Baptist—May 1983

Olivehurst Mission

Dear Brethren,

Elder Larry Crouch, pastor of the Martinez Missionary Baptist Church was here to preach for us on April 10. He and his family sang some lovely specials, and we heard two wonderful sermons. Bro. Larry is a nephew to Sis. Hazel Scott and Doyle Heiney.

The Lord has truly blessed us with a record attendance of 38 and added three new members by letter from the Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Fresno. Bro. Bob Parker, his wife Verna Lee and their daughter Becky Chandler. We are praying for Becky's husband, too. A family of five visited and said that they would be back. Put them on your prayer list, also Don and Cheryl Clark, a brother and sister, who visit often. Don and Helen Smith who are very interested in and will.....

Baptist Sentinel—February 1984

Pastor Larry Crouch

Bro. Larry Crouch has accepted the call of the Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of San Jose, Ca., and is already on the field. Prior to moving to San Jose Bro. Crouch served as pastor at Rowland Heights and Martinez, Ca. He also taught for a brief period of time here at CMBI. We Pray for him and the church a fruitful ministry together.



Bro. Larry Crouch has accepted the call of Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of San Jose, Ca., and is already on the field. Prior to moving to San Jose Bro. Crouch served as pastor at Rowland Heights and Martinez, Ca. He also taught for a brief period of time here at CMBI. We pray for him and the church a fruitful ministry together.

—Continued on page 11

Larry W. Crouch In The Baptist Press

—Continued From page 10

Missionary Baptist Herald—June 1985
Landmark MBC, San Jose

Larry Crouch, pastor.

They received many blessings from their Mission Conference in which they heard a number of brethren present their mission works. The State Choir, under Bro. Dave Butimore's direction, also was featured.

Baptist Sentinel—August 1985
(C.M.B.I.)

PASTOR LARRY CROUCH of the Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of San Jose, Ca., was the morning speaker and did a tremendous job.

Baptist Sentinel—May 1986

SAN JOSE, CA., LMBC— Things have been great! Attendance is on the upswing and several new families are attending who have shown great interest in knowing how to become members.

Larry Crouch, pastor.

Baptist Sentinel—January 1988
Northern Coastal



Bro. Larry Crouch and Bro. Bill Newlove clerked the Northern Coastal Association meeting held in Eureka November 20 and 21.

Baptist Searchlight—July 2000
California

Bethel, Oakley, Larry Crouch, pastor.

Church continues to do well even though their pastor is in a wheelchair. He is taking another series of chemotherapy for his cancer. Church is very supportive of him.

CALIFORNIA

Landmark MBC, Oakhurst
Larry Crouch, Pastor

They are enjoying visitors in their services, including a family of six recently moved there from Houston, TX, who has indicated their intention of uniting with the church. They have been enjoying some good messages from young ministers who have filled their pulpit while the pastor has been recuperating from his recent illness and hospitalization. Bro. Crouch is feeling much better at this writing.

Missionary Baptist
July/August/September 2014



BETHEL MBC
Oakley, California
Larry Crouch, Pastor

They report great services with many recent additions by baptism and by letter. Brother Crouch was awarded a Master of Theology Degree and a Doctor of Theology Degree at FMBI's Commencement May 6th.

Missionary Baptist Herald
April, May, June 2005
XXVII, #2

BETHEL MBC
Oakley, California
Larry Crouch, Pastor

They report great services with many recent additions by baptism and by letter. Brother Crouch was awarded a Master of Theology Degree and a Doctor of Theology Degree at FMBI's Commencement May 6th.

Missionary Baptist

BETHEL MBC
Oakley, California
Larry Crouch, Pastor

They have been busy with a flurry of activities. They had VBS July 19-23, and they hosted the District Ladies Auxiliary meeting July 24th, where the program was entitled "Maintaining Spiritual Growth."

Missionary Baptist

Larry W. Crouch In The Baptist Press

KEYS OF THE KINGDOM Matthew 16:15-19

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Hebrew word for key is *maphteach*, [maf-tay'-akh]; an opener: this is from *pathach*, *paw-thakh*'; to open wide, to loosen.
- B. The Greek word for key is *kleis*; [klice]; to open or close a lock: this is from *kleio*; to close or shut up.
- C. The Bible speaks of the key or the keys in eight different passages.
1. Judges 3:25 speaks of a key used by the servants of King Eglon of Moab to open the door to his locked parlor.
 2. Luke 11:52 Jesus rebuked a group of lawyers for taking away the key of knowledge.
 3. Rev. 9:1; 20:1 speaks of the angel who has the key to (or the authority over) the bottomless pit.
 4. Isa. 22:22; Rev. 3:7 both speak of one having the key of the house of David.
 5. Rev. 1:18 Christ says he has the keys of hell and of death.
 6. Matt. 16:19 is Christ giving the Church the keys of (or authority concerning) the kingdom of heaven.
- D. Keys are used in the Scripture as a sign of authority, and I want to look at three of the above passages to help our understanding of this.

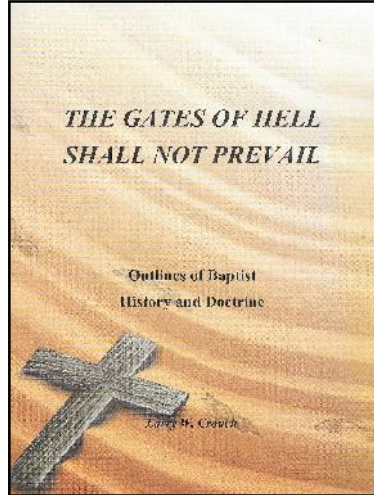
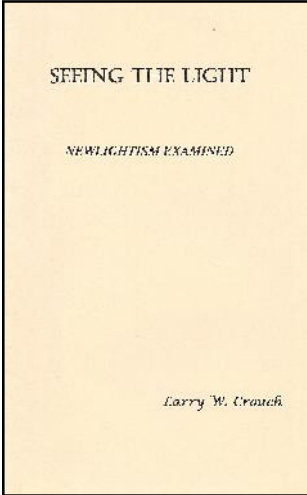
I. KEY OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID

- A. This key gave the keeper the authority over the treasures of David's house. This was the authority to enter or close the throne room (Isa. 22:22).
1. Shebna was the ranking officer in King Hezekiah's court (Isa. 22:15).
 - a. "Treasurer" from *sakan*; is an attendant or minister, to be of use. Note: The King gave him any and all authority he had.
 - b. When negated *lo soken* it means to be useless/unprofitable (Job 15:3).

2. This is the only instance of denunciation of a person by name in Isaiah. Shebna's was the sin of pride. He was more concerned about building a monument to himself rather than facing the national crisis of the invading Assyrians against Judah (Isa. 22:16).
 3. Shebna misused his authority and was stripped of the key to the house of David and would be led away captive (Isa. 22:17-19).
 4. The monument he hoped to build became a hollow reminder of Shebna's ill-fated pride and misuse of the key/authority (Prov 16:18).
- B. What is learned about the key or authority from Shebna?
1. Authority can be abused. Shebna pictures the Old Covenant and its priesthood, which was more concerned with enrichment than the pure service of God (Mark 7:10-13).
 2. Misused or misapplied authority found wanting is removed (Matt. 23:12; Isa. 2:12).
- C. A faithful keeper of the key, delegated authority, is sought and found (Isa. 22:20-24).
1. Eliakim was a faithful servant of his father's house.
 - a. Christ is the faithful servant over His house (Heb. 3:5-6).
 - b. A New Testament Church must be a faithful steward in using the keys/authority given her (Luke 12:42-44; 1 Cor. 4:2).
 2. Eliakim was clothed with a robe befitting his office.
 - a. Jesus wears the robes of the King of kings (Rev. 19:13, 16).
 - b. The Church has been clothed with the garments of Salvation and shall wear the robes of a righteous bride (Isa. 61:10; Rev. 19:7, 8; 21:2).
 3. Eliakim was girded with a belt as a sign or seal of his authority.
 - a. Jesus holds the seal of authority over all things (John 5:26, 27; 17:2; Matt. 28:18).
- "Authority" and "power" is from the Greek word *exousia*; which is the token of control, it is delegated authority, jurisdiction, or legal right.
- b. The Holy Spirit came upon the Church as a sign and seal of her authority to carry out the Lord's commission (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).
 4. Eliakim is given the duty of overseeing the house of the king.
 - a. Jesus is the final authority over His house, which is the Church (Eph. 1:19-23).
 - b. Jesus gave authority to the servants of His house, the New Testament Church (Acts 13:34; 1 Tim. 3:15).
 5. Eliakim is given the key (symbol of authority) on his shoulder. This served as a badge of his authority. Much like a policeman.
- D. Isaiah gives a prophetic glimpse of the coming of the Messiah. The ultimate fulfillment is found in Christ who completes the picture as the One cut off by the burden laid upon Him (Isa. 22:25; 53:8).
1. The Messiah bore our burden of sin (1 Peter 2:24).
 2. By His death this burden was cut off (1 John 2:2; Eph. 2:16; 2 Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:14).
- E. By His death, burial, and resurrection Jesus holds the keys to our past, present, and future.
1. The key of David is access, or right of entry, to the throne (Rev. 3:7, 8).
 2. No one had access to Hezekiah except through Eliakim and that by right of invitation. (Esther and Ahasuerus). The holder of the key/authority opened the door to throne.
 3. Jesus has the keys and has entered the throne room for us (Heb. 6:19, 20; 9:24).
 4. No one has access to God except through Christ (Rom. 5:1, 2).
 5. The key holder, Jesus Christ, grants us access with boldness (Heb. 4:15, 16).
- F. The New Testament Church must carefully guard their use of the keys and do so as instructed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dr. Larry Crouch is the Pastor of Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in Oakhurst. He teaches Major and Minor Prophets, Baptist History, Ministerial Practicalities, and Pneumatology.

Larry W. Crouch In The Baptist Press



SPECIAL THANKS and DEDICATION

I first met Brother I. K. Cross in September of 1975, When I was a third year student at the California Missionary Baptist Institute and Seminary in Bellflower, California. I enrolled in his "Baptist History" class. His enthusiasm and knowledge of the subject gave me the desire to learn more about our Baptist Heritage. His words of encouragement over the years have continued to cause me to study and appreciate Baptist History and Doctrine. He has been both a dear friend and mentor. I owe him a very special thanks for the many notes and thoughts he passed along and for allowing me to use his writings while putting these outlines together.

I also owe special thanks to Brother G. A. 'Sonny' Williams, who is now home with the Lord, and Brother Robert Cullifer, Pastor of Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in Folsom, California for the notes they supplied on the early History of California Baptists.

It is to these Brethren and all those who love Baptist History and Doctrine that these outlines and notes are dedicated. May God use them to the salvation of souls and for the strengthening and encouragement of those who love the truth.

In Christ,

Larry W. Crouch

The Booklet pictured above does not have an Introduction or Preface, but was written during a time (late 2000's) when the fellowship in our State was disrupted over the subject.

—Editor

PREFACE

There has been no shortage of Baptist Confessions of Faith especially this side of the so-called reformation. William L. Lumpkin in his book, "Baptist Confessions of Faith" listed some forty-four different confessions of faith that have been set forth by various Baptist groups. A number of these have very little variation. While others have statements included that were brought to bear because of some doctrinal issue the group was facing at that time. Most of the Baptist associations, conventions or fellowships follow either the New Hampshire Confession or the Philadelphia Confession adding statements or articles that they felt were necessary to define their particular doctrines.

In the preface to his book, "The Battle For Baptist History" Dr. I. K. Cross asked the question, "Why another Baptist History?" In his answer he wrote, "This is not just another Baptist history. Rather, it is a defense of the histories that have already been written." It is not the purpose of this book to write yet another Baptist Confession of Faith or even to attempt to re-write one. It is the purpose of this work to contend for the Faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3), as I endeavor to expound on the Doctrinal Statement of the American Baptist Association.

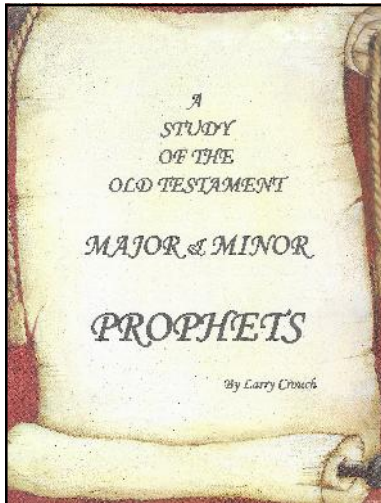
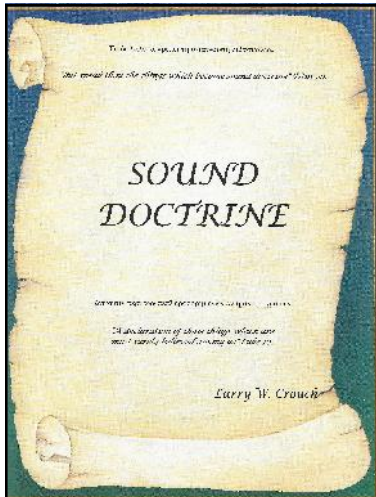
I was privileged to be raised in a Missionary Baptist Home by a Missionary Baptist Preacher. I was saved and Baptized by the authority of a Local, Visible, Independent Missionary Baptist Church and I was ordained to the Gospel Ministry by the same. All of my ministerial life I have had the privilege and honor of serving the Lord's churches that are associated together in the fellowship of the American Baptist Association. This is a group of independent Baptist churches voluntarily associating in their work to carryout the Great Commission the Lord gave His Church during His personal ministry on earth.

The Doctrinal Statement, as printed on page 211 of the 2003 Yearbook, clearly sets forth in 21 points what the churches of the American Baptist Association believe and practice. The main tenet that led to the forming of the Association concerned the complete sovereignty of the local churches within the fellowship.

It is the hope of this writer that these outlines and lessons may be used to strengthen New Testament churches in the faith and to lead others to the truth of God's Word. May the Lord richly bless as you take your Bible in hand and "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

In the Master's Service,

Larry W. Crouch



Larry W. Crouch—Cooperative Association 2007 Evangelistic Sermon

EVANGELISTIC SERMON

THE TRUE EVANGELIST II Timothy 4:5



Brother Larry Crouch

Good evening. It is an honor and a privilege to preach the Word of God any time, but especially to a congregation of representatives from the Lord's New Testament churches. Last year at this time I was in CICU Ward, with tubes running everywhere. I'm very thankful that the reports of my death were way over-exaggerated. I know what Brother Kinz is talking about. You get clipped by a heart attack and bypass surgery, you wonder if you'll ever get up and be yourself again. And there's some folks still wondering that, Brother George. I'm thankful that the Lord has spared me for this time. I invite you to stand together as we read the verse from God's Word.

I was told this was to be the Evangelistic message, so we're going to talk tonight about "The True Evangelist." II Timothy Chapter 4 Verse 5, a familiar verse—the Apostle Paul encouraging a young preacher. Come August will be 50 years that I have been in the ministry. Us old-timers need encouragement as well! Paul speaking to Timothy says, "*But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.*" Let's bow our heads as we look to the Lord. (Prayer)

I've already been told by a couple that if they've heard this, they are going to get up and leave, so you guys keep an eye on Al Bevis and Melford Keeling. If they get up, make them sit down. Brother Hall also told me that if I looked over and his eyes were closed that he was not sleeping, he was just praying for me. The True Evangelist—To you who have your Bibles, I invite you to turn over to the book of Third John. We are going to use that throughout the course of the message this evening.

The word "evangelist" is found three times in the New Testament. It is from a word which literally means "a preacher of the gospel or a bringer of good news." The best news is the gospel of Jesus Christ. I don't know about you, I get tired of watching CNN and Fox. They never have any good news. God's Word has good news and I'm glad to be a part as one of those that brings that good news. Before

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Assorted Photos From Files



Dinner at The Elephant Bar—Sacramento 2016



Landmark Missionary Baptist Church—Oakhurst
Young Preacher Conference



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Assorted Photos From Hume Lake



2001



2002



Christ ascended back into heaven, Paul told the brethren at Ephesus that he gave gifts unto men in the church basically for the spiritual growth of the church. One of those gifts that he mentions in Ephesians 4:11 was evangelist. One of the seven that was chosen as a deacon, Philip, was called "The Evangelist" in Acts 21:8. Then in our text Timothy was admonished "do the work of an evangelist". Do the work of spreading the good news. Webster's Dictionary says that evangelism is "a preaching of or zealous effort to spread the gospel". How real is our zeal tonight? We need more zeal, more enthusiasm of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Folks, those of you that know me know that I believe in a local, visible church started by Christ in His ministry. I am a church man, but if we don't get busy with evangelism, we're not going to have any churches to preach in. The first part of the Commission says "win them". It doesn't do any good to try to teach a lost man about the local church or closed communion. He has no idea what you're talking about. He needs Jesus. We need to get busy preaching Jesus Christ.

I have a Webster's Dictionary and I like this definition. It says that "evangelical means according to the gospel those churches, such as Baptist, which emphasize salvation by faith." That will make a few Methodists choke, won't it?

In Third John the Holy Spirit gave the church in the world today, I believe, a real good example of what true evangelism and what a true evangelist is all about. He's talking about those that are dedicated to the spread of the gospel. I'm thankful for forefathers that were dedicated to the spread of the gospel and we could go way back to the apostles themselves, who gave their lives for the gospel of Jesus Christ—Montanists, Novations, Donatists—we could come on down through history and I believe that we have men in our ranks today who would be willing to put their lives on the line for Jesus Christ, and it may come to that before the Lord comes.

Evangelism is the work of the church, but it's also the work of every born-again child of God and what we need to realize...you say "Preacher, I can't preach a sermon." You don't need to. You are a witness every time you step out the door. People say, "Let's go witnessing." Folks, you witness every time you go, who you go with, what you wear, what you say, what you do. People are watching you and you are witnessing either for Jesus or against Him. Be an evangelist that honors the Lord.

I want you to notice with me in Third John the true evangelists are **IN THE TRUTH**. Now there are a lot of fellows today calling themselves evangelicals that are not in the truth. In the first verse, John says, "*The elder unto the well-beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.*" True evangelists are in the truth. John's letter is addressed to someone that he loved. I don't know. There are several Gaiuses mentioned, but one was saved under Paul's ministry at Corinth. In Romans we find that he was a guest in his house. John calls him beloved four times

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here in Third John. Why did he love him? I think for the truth's sake, for what this man did and what he represented. Brother, we need to get behind those today that represent the gospel of Jesus Christ. We need to love them, not just in word, but in deed. Let them know. Put some prayer and also put some feet to those prayers. They had a bond in the truth. In Second John he said, *"The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth;"* I believe the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ that call themselves Missionary Baptists have the truth. Brother, let me tell you something, and you sisters here, it is an honor and a privilege to be a part of the Lord's New Testament church.

True evangelism are people of the truth. Jesus said that God is a spirit and they that worship Him have to do it how? In spirit and in truth. We got groups out there always hollering, "Get the spirit, get the spirit." I think they need to get Jesus first. What do you think? Because then they would get in the truth. Because it's Jesus Christ who said, "I am the way, the truth", and that's the truth that sets us free—is knowing Christ. The truth of the gospel needs to prevail at any cost. And folks, this idea about compromise and doing it this way or that way, the minute you compromise truth, it's not truth anymore.

I never will forget Bible Analysis class one time, a young preacher asked the question about Acts 2:38. He said, "Brother Chastain, how do we get around that scripture?" "Young man, we don't get around it, we go through it." Folks, if you have to go around a scripture, you better back up and take another shot at it. We are not to be a distraction from the gospel, but an attraction to it, by what we live, what we say, how we preach and conduct ourselves. Every pastor, every deacon, every church member should have a love for the truth and then learn how to speak the truth in love. That's what we're commanded in Ephesians 4:15.

True evangelists **PROSPER SPIRITUALLY**. Look at Verse 2. I want you to take a good, close look at this. *"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."* "Beloved, I wish..." That's a word which means to pray to God, to pray for. This was John's concern. He was praying for this brother and he said, "Above all things..." Shame on us, if we endorse these missionaries and then don't get behind them with our prayers and support. We need to pray for one another. I thank God for the prayers that went up for me last year, and the phone calls, the cards, all that came along. When Paul was at Ephesus, he called them together and warned them, he said, "I know when I leave, the wolves are going to come in." It says, he knelt down and he prayed with them all. It would do us good before we leave here tonight for us to pastors to get together and kneel down here and pray for the work in California and across the United States. For true evangelism to prevail, we need to pray for every pastor and leader in our churches. We need to pray for that teacher that's teaching that kindergarten class, because that's where it starts.

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Paul in closing his letter in First Thessalonians said, *“Brethren, pray for us.”* When he wrote them the second time, he said, *“Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word may have free course.”* I don’t know about you, but I’m glad we live in America where we can still do this, and not worry about the soldiers coming in or getting arrested. Paul prayed for others and he asked others to pray for him. You remember when Israel came to Samuel and said, *“Make us a king”*? It wasn’t long they realized they made a mistake. They said, *“Samuel, you going to quit praying for us?”* He said, *“I’ll not sin against God in ceasing to pray for you.”* Listen, folks, it’s a sin if we know of a brother or church in need and we can’t take the time to get on our knees and pray for them. Listen to this verse. If your health depended on how your soul was prospering, just how healthy would you be? That’s what John said here, am I right? Listen, the prosperity he’s talking about here does not mean money in the bank. It does not accumulating things. It is the joy and the fulfillment of preaching the gospel, seeing souls saved, lives changed, doing the work of a true evangelist.

Exercised faith profits not only now but for eternity. Paul told Timothy, *“Bodily exercise profiteth little or for little time.”* And I’m a good example of that. Brother, we need to exercise ourselves daily in the spiritual realm. We need to follow some of the Old Testament admonitions concerning our children and family, to rehearse it and tell it to them when they get up, when they go out, when they come in, when they lay down. We need to do like David and say, *“I’ll meditate upon it in the night watches.”* I’ll do it in the morning, and at noon and in the evening. We need to get into God’s Word. Why? Because true evangelists **STUDY THE WORD OF GOD.** Look at Verse 3, *“For I rejoice greatly when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.”* Listen to me closely. It’s one thing to talk the truth, it’s something else to walk it. How many of you have run into some fellow who says, *“Oh, we believe just like you to.”* You know what my next question is, *“Yes, but do you practice it?”* If you preach the truth, walk in truth. We must faithfully study the Word of God, then execute it to our people and live it before them. Paul told Timothy to study, exert yourself, be earnest, be diligent to show thyself approved, someone that is acceptable and pleasing unto God, a workman, a laborer, someone who gets out and sweats. Preachers, we need to sweat once in a while. *“That needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing”*....cutting that straight path through the Word of God.

We need to be committed, not only to preaching...and I think most of you pastors will agree with me. Getting up here and doing this is the easy part. This is the fun part, this is the exciting part. It’s what you rascals put us through Monday through Saturday that makes our hair fall out. *“Yeah, he quit preaching now and got to meddling.”* Yeah, whatever. If you didn’t want to hear it, you shouldn’t have elected me to preach.

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Folks, there is a real lack of Bible knowledge, even among Missionary Baptists today. You'd be surprised what the average church member in your church don't know. Remember what the Lord said in Hosea's day? "My people are destroyed for lack of..." What? ..."knowledge". And folks, that's happening among Baptists today. They are being swallowed up by this thing and that thing and we need to keep them in the truth of God's Word. Truth is there. Problem is some of them don't want it. We're getting to the time that Paul said they will have itching ears. They had rather hear a fable than a message on hell, one on sound doctrine. Brethren, we need pastors and evangelists who will get up and tell it like God's Word tells it and let the chips fall where they may.

Our desire should be to grow in the knowledge and admonition of the Lord. Peter said, "Grow in grace" and the only way you are going to do that is to get into the Word. When John found out that Gaius was in the Word and in truth, that excited him. That's what I like about seminary work in young preachers. I love watching them grow up and develop and come to something that amounts to something for the Lord. That bird right there showed up at CMBI and I thought, "Lord, you send him and Don Hernandez down here, what in the world were you thinking?" Look what God can do with someone willing to let God.

Listen, if we really put the truth in them, then they will be obligated to walk in that truth—not just in their heads but in their hearts. What do you think the Psalmist said, "Thy Word have I hid in my heart"? That's where it needs to be. Let me tell you something, pastors, particularly you young preachers. If that message is not in your heart and don't excite you, don't expect it to get a hold of your people. That's one you need to lay on and pray over some more. If it hasn't got a hold of you, it's not going to get a hold of anyone else. There have been a lot of them I've put on the burner and wait a while, pray about them, rework them.

THEIR FAITH AND EXAMPLE SHOULD BRING JOY. Verse 4 says, "*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth.*" How exciting that is. Listen, it is a great blessing to deliver a message from the Word of God. It is a greater blessing to watch people live one.

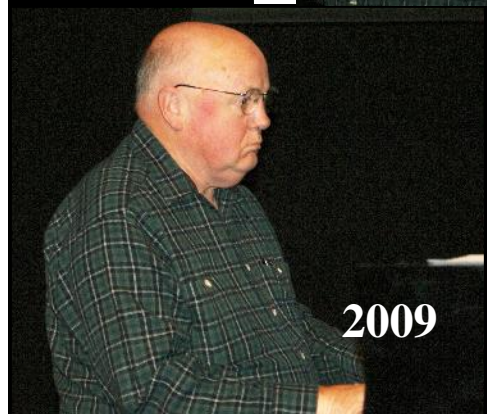
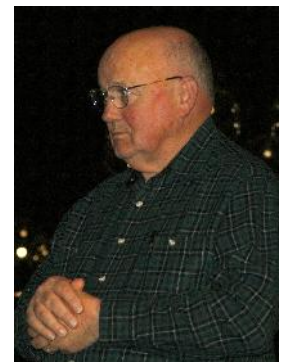
True evangelists **USE THEIR GIFTS.** Don't tell me you can't. Generally, it's because you don't want to. I remember after my dad drowned, my Grandmother Keeling came to live with us. I'd come home from school and she'd say, "Larry Wayne, get in there and clean up your room." "I don't want to, Grandma." She'd say, "Get your 'want to' fixed—you're going to do it." I've learned something in the ministry, brethren, God's going to do it with us, without us, or in spite of us. I'd rather Him do it with us. Amen? Use those gifts. Gaius was helping those brethren, as well as strangers. Look at Verse 5, "*Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren and to strangers.*" We need to show hospitality, especially to those who are of the household of faith. When Paul wrote to

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Timothy about how pastors are supposed to be, he said, “given to hospitality”, to Titus, “a lover of hospitality”, “a lover of good men”. We need to love one another. We used to go to the association when I was a kid. We didn’t look for motel rooms. We got put up with whoever was hosting. Right? I think the fellowship was a lot sweeter. Next year, Brother Art, tell your people we’re all coming to their homes. That would fulfill my next scripture. *“Be kindly affectionate one to another in brotherly love.”* Use hospitality, Peter said, one to another, without grudging. Don’t grumble and murmur and gripe about it. Thank God you’ve had the privilege of entertaining some of the Lord’s folk.

True evangelists **INVEST IN THE MINISTRY**, not just their own, but in others that are preaching the gospel. *“Watch, which have borne witness of thy charity before the church.”* Family, friends, strangers, brethren, they need to be invited again and again and again and we need not grow weary. He said, “We will reap in due time if we faint not.” If we just don’t lose heart. Hang in there and God’s promised the blessing. Our job is to preach the gospel. Paul told the church at Corinth “God gives the increase.” Some of you pastors, you know what I’m talking about. I’ve had some that I’ve added. I was glad when I got to subtract them too. When the Lord adds them, they will stick. Folks, we need to be open in our discipleship and in our ministry. You know, after James had claimed the body of Jesus, his secret was out. Members said he was a secret disciple for fear of the Jews. What is it that frightens us about doing evangelistic work and witnessing for the Lord Jesus Christ? We need to listen to what the Psalmist said, *“In God have I put my trust. I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.”* Some twenty-five or thirty years later in his life, he rephrased it a little bit. *“The Lord is on my side. I will not fear what man can do unto me.”* If God be for us, who cares what man thinks.

True evangelists do all they can to **SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF THE GOSPEL**. In verse 6 and 7 it says, *“Whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well because that for his name sake they went forth taking nothing of the Gentiles.”* The church is not to be supported by the world, folks. It hasn’t changed. Tithes and offerings have always been God’s method. In the days of Abraham, when he gave tithes to Melchizedek, they that preach the gospel are to live by the gospel just like the priests lived in the things of the tabernacle. If your church is in financial trouble, pastor, you better check. Are you tithing and giving offerings? You need to set the example as a true evangelist for your people. If you don’t do it, don’t expect them to do it. You young men in seminary, I know going to seminary, working and doing all of that and some of you are starting a family, it’s hard. But you put the Lord first, He’ll put you first, you’re going to come out on top. You leave the Lord out, watch out!

Paul told Timothy that faithful evangelists were **WORTHY OF SUPPORT**. He said, *“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double...”* Two-fold more.

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That doesn't mean take a dollar bill and fold it over when you put it in the offering plate. That's not what it's talking about. That word "honor" two-fold honor means money paid, a price. Then he goes on and he says that the laborer is worthy of his reward, his pay, his service. I'm proud of those brethren. I've done it, most of you here have—worked a job and pastor at the same time. Brother, we need to pray that God will bless those churches so those pastors can go full time. They don't need to be dividing their time between God's service and the service of the world.

True evangelists, like Gaius and Demetrius, that are mentioned here in Third John are **EXAMPLES TO ALL OF US AS FELLOW HELPERS OF THE GOSPEL**. In verse 8, "*We therefore ought to receive such that we might be fellow helpers to the truth.*" Then in verse 12, "*Demetrius hath good report of all men...*" Get that, ALL men. We're not only to have a good report in the church. Paul told Timothy to have a good report of them that are without. How you fit in the community is important as well. Does it matter what kind of report other people give about us? Yes, it does. A pastor, missionary, evangelist, a deacon....we are obligated. Listen, he says, "*Let no man despise thy youth. Be an example to believers.*" In word, conversation, charity, spirit, faith, and purity.

Here's something that John also mentions that most of us are faced with from time to time. **TRUE EVANGELISTS WILL BE OPPOSED**. Truth is being opposed today. Have you kept up with the news? I think it's a shame...this country was built on the Ten Commandments, on Judeo-Christian principles. They want to take all that away. "You can't have prayer and Bible reading in public. It might offend somebody." Hey, the Word of God has been offending people for centuries. You know why they don't want the Ten Commandments? They don't want them staring them in the face because of their ungodly lives. They say, "You can't do that 'cause we have some Muslims." Let them go home! Allah is not my god—never will be! The God I serve didn't tell me to go out and blow people up. He told me to go out and witness to them about Jesus Christ. John said in Verse 9, "*I wrote unto the church, but Diotropheses, who loveth to have the pre-eminence among them, receiveth us not.*" I can just see them saying, "I don't want to have that Apostle John telling us what to do! Who does he think he is?" Well, I wonder who this fellow thought he was.

Some reject the truth and leadership. Like I said, they've always been rejected. Verse 10 says, "*Wherefore if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against...*" That means babbling, trifling, berating. Notice, "*...us with malicious....*" If you look up that word in the Greek, fellows, it's closely akin to the word we get 'pornography' from. It means derelict things. Brethren, you oppose the ministry of God, someone that's preaching the truth, it's derelict to you. That's right. "*...not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbideth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.*" I think if I

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Working Meeting in Folsom



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ABA 2012—Fresno, CA
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was there on business meeting, brother, I'd make the motion and we'd exclude this brother. On what grounds? Just 'cause I want to. Listen to this guy. Talk about discord. Diotrefes—look it up. His name means “nourished by Job”. That's from the word ‘Zeus’, Jupiter, which was the supreme deity of the Greeks and it means he was....listen he lived up to his name. We have a problem today. There are too many Diotrefes living among us. There's no room in the Lord's work for the big “I's” and this ego trip. We need to brag on the Lord and learn to prefer our brethren before us. We need the help and care of each other. Paul told the church at Philippi, *“Let nothing be done through strife...”* You look up that word and it means “political intrigue”. We don't need politics in the Lord's church. We need the gospel. *“Or vainglory, emptiness, conceit, pride, but in lowliness of mind, let each esteem the other better than himself.”*

True evangelists, like Gaius and Demetrius, **DO NOT LORD IT OVER OTHERS** and we should not either. Peter said, *“Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but examples to the flock.”* Those who oppose the truth and the work of the church are not to be tolerated. Look at what he says in Verse 11, *“Beloved, follow not that which is evil...”* He's still talking about this brother. *“...but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God; but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.”*

We need to run away from them. Back in Second John, he said, *“If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house.”* Don't bid him Godspeed, don't become partaker of his evil deeds. Sometimes it's hard, especially when fellow believers begin to attack, for us to take the stand and just keep hanging in there. I think of Paul in prison. He knew his execution day was coming and he writes to Timothy and says, *“Demas hath forsaken me.”* He loved this present world. He took off to Thessalonica. Crescens took off to Galatia, Titus into Dalmatia, only Luke is here. You talk about young preachers growing up to be something. Early in Paul's ministry, he told Barnabas, “You're not taking Mark.” That little snout-nosed kid got scared and ran home, but now he tells Timothy, “Take Mark and bring him with you, for he is profitable to me in the ministry.” What happened? He grew up in the Lord. All of us preachers have made mistakes—not always when we're young. We still make some when we get older. We need to get behind these young ones and hold them up.

He goes on and says, down in Verse 17, *“notwithstanding the Lord stood with me.”* When everyone else is gone, if you're into truth, the Lord will be there. He will be there.

Gaius and Demetrius remained faithful despite the opposition or the service of others. We must not allow the attitudes and failures or the spirituality of others to keep us from faithfully doing what God has called us to do. True evangelists ought to **WORK TOGETHER IN UNITY**. In Verses 13 and 14, he said, *“I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee; But I trust I shall*

Larry W. Crouch—Cooperative Association 2007 Evangelistic Sermon

shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name. Three key things are said in the closing of this little letter. He says “face to face”. You know, that denotes trust. That denotes closeness and joy. I’ve had a church member say, “Brother Crouch, what do you really like about the Association?” I said, “Seeing my brethren one more time.” I can’t wait till June. I can’t wait to get to Tulsa. See the brethren, enjoy the fellowship, going from booth to booth, talking to the missionaries, the different works around the world, to learn how God has blessed and how souls are being saved. I love it when he gives his report and says, “The missionaries reported 2,000—3,000 saved.” Folks, that’s what it’s about. It’s not about us. It’s about the Lord. He said, “Peace”. Peace ought to rule and let the peace of God rule in your hearts. Sometimes unity needs to be worked at. Then he says “friends”. Just serving together. It should be our desire to be brothers and sisters, as Paul said in 11 Corinthians 8:18, “whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches.”

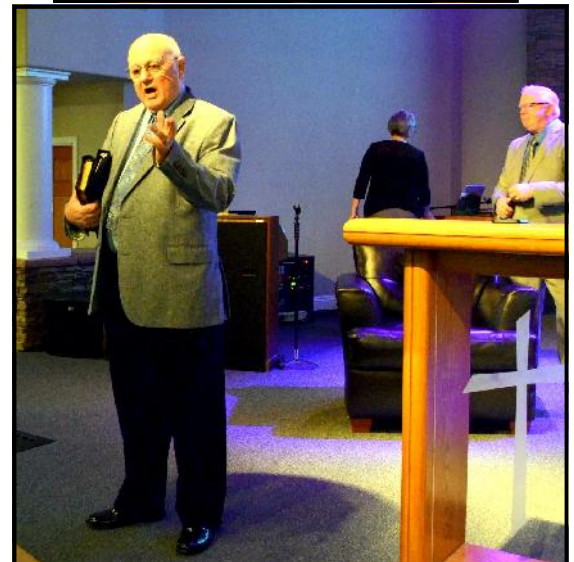
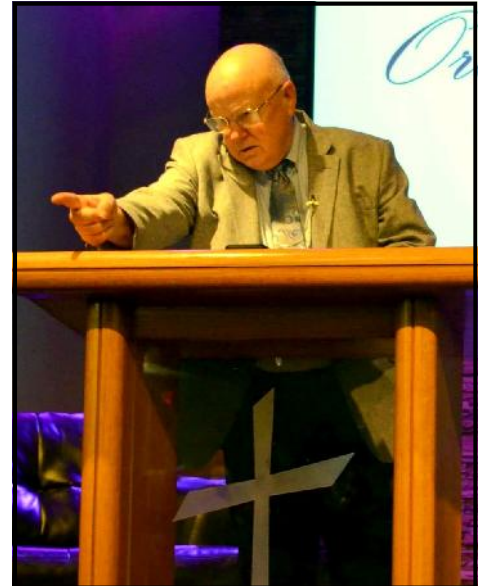
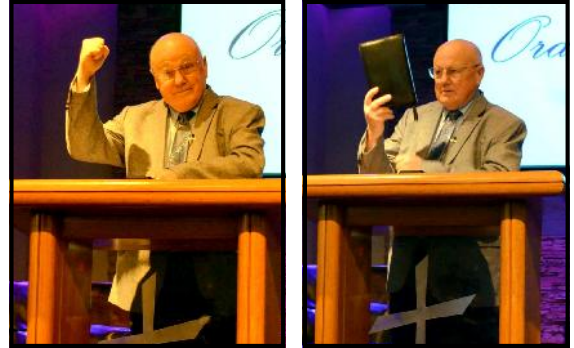
How evangelistic are our churches? Pastors, a lot of that depends on how evangelistic we are. That’s right. Are we willing to make the investment and pray? Put the time in study, finances, sweat and tears? It’s hard work sometimes. It was hard for the Lord to go to the cross, but he endured it, despised the shame for the glory that was set before Him. Our reward is not here. My cousin, who pastors up in Myrtle Creek, has got a little sign in his office that says, “I don’t get paid much now, but my retirement is out of this world.” Let’s get ready for a song, brother.

Evangelism in the church is critical ’cause people need the Lord. New Christians need to be taught. Once we win them, our job has just begun. New leaders and members, how they live is critical. We need to take note in how Gaius and Demetrius helped the church in the spread of the gospel.

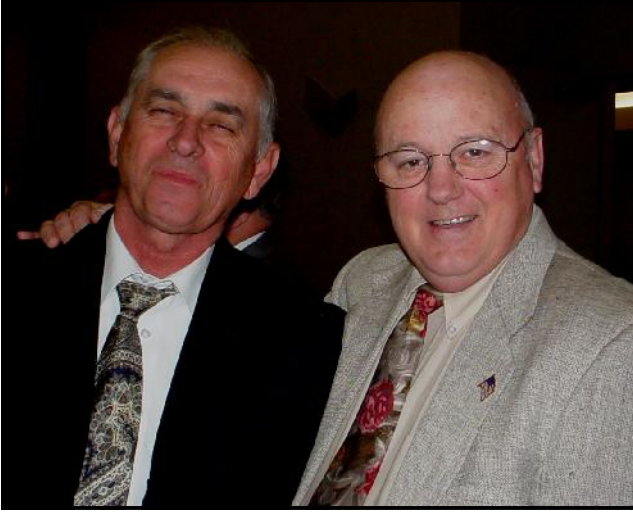
Here’s a little thought I want to leave you with before we stand and sing. What kind of church would my church be if all of its members were evangelists just like me. Brethren, we need to get concerned. When I moved back to the Bay Area in 1980, there were twenty-two churches in the Redwood Cooperative Association. I think we now have fifteen. Churches that were running over a hundred are now running fifty to sixty. We need to get serious about preaching the gospel. I believe Jesus is coming soon. There’s not a shortage of lost souls out there. There’s not a shortage of young men who say they are called to preach. Listen to me, young man, it’s time you surrendered to that call. I invite you pastors to come tonight and let’s pray for our work that we would be true evangelists for the Lord Jesus Christ.

41

Assorted Photos Ordination Service For Zak Crouch



Larry W. Crouch—Cooperative Association
Photo Gallery—Cullifer Photos



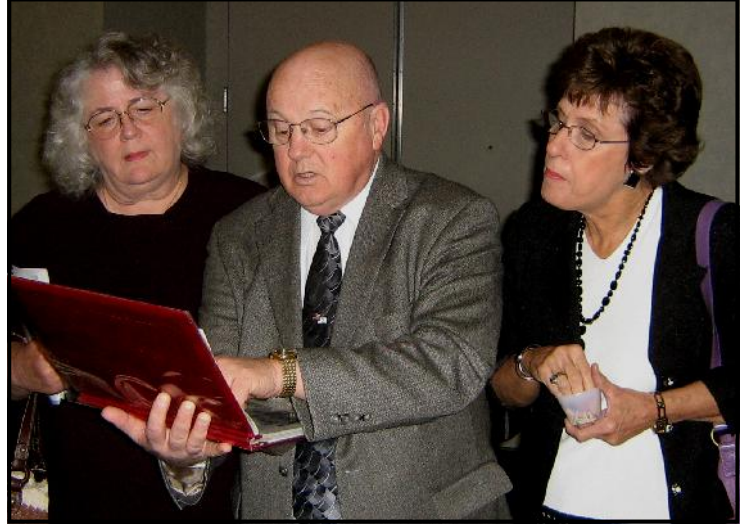
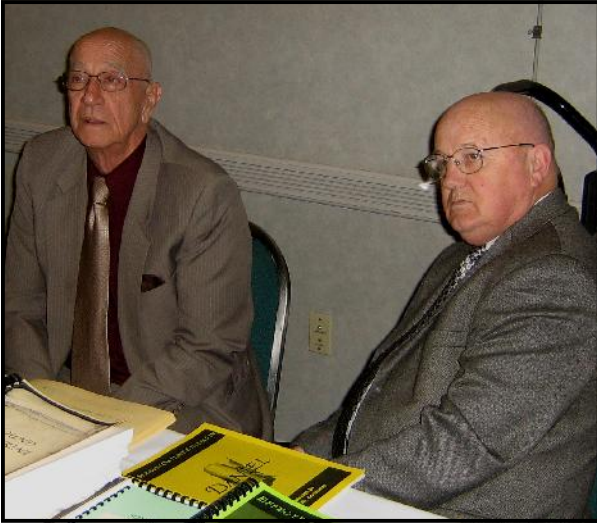
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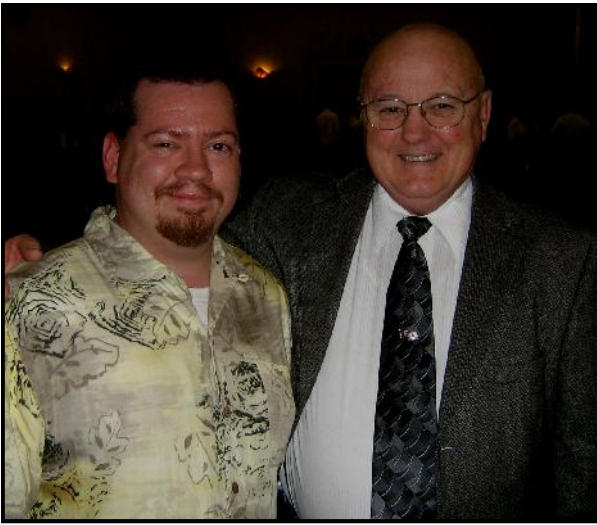
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Larry W. Crouch—Cooperative Association Photo Gallery—Cullifer Photos



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Larry W. Crouch—Cooperative Association Photo Gallery—Cullifer Photos



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Committeemen at work



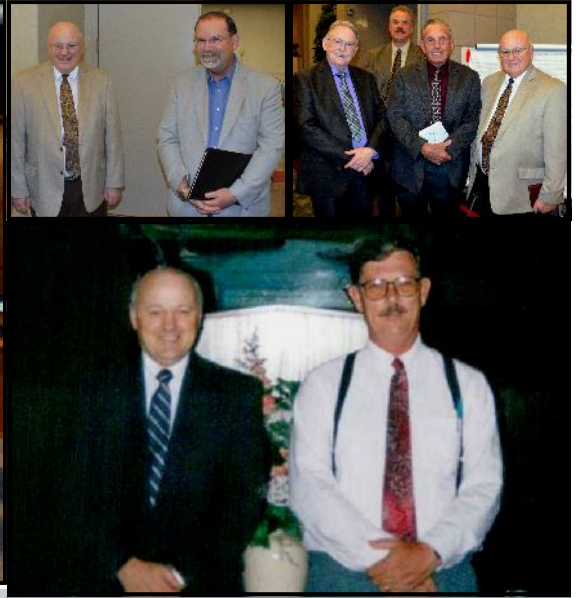
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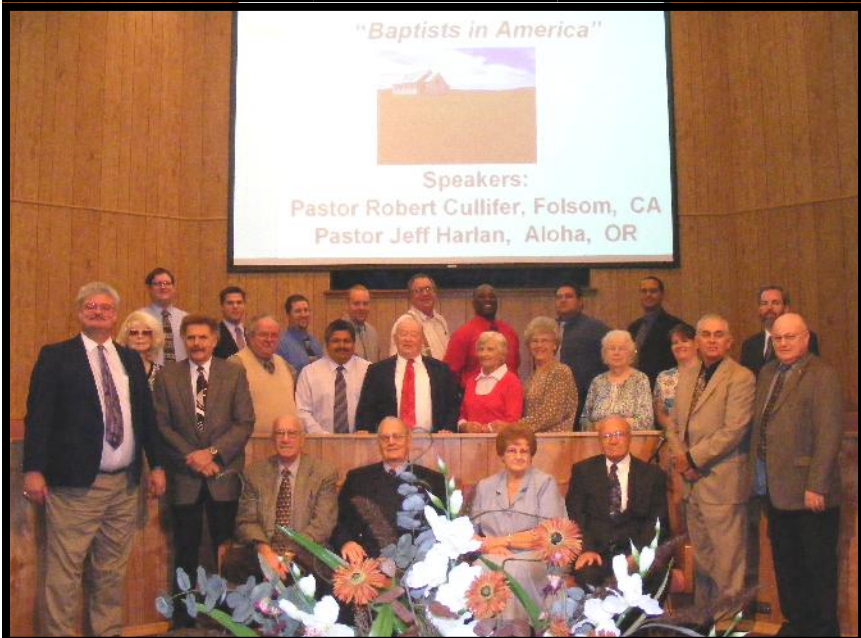
Larry W. Crouch—Cooperative Association Photo Gallery—Cullifer Photos



2013 - California Cooperative Association - Ministers Group
at First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church, Vidsalia



2007 FMBI Seminar on Baptist History



Larry W. Crouch— Death of Bro. Charles Crouch

Vol. 12

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA



Bro. Charles Crouch Gone Home to Glory

The above is the likeness of OUR BELOVED BROTHER, Elder Charles Crouch, now gone to be with the LORD.

Elder Charles Crouch was born October 7, 1918, at Tucumsch, Oklahoma, to Orin D. Crouch and Anna Crouch. He was married to Ann Keeling at Salinas, California, August 29, 1944, by Eld. M. B. Hubbard, Baptist minister, pastor of Hudson Heights Missionary Baptist Church of Salinas, Calif.

Bro. Crouch was saved at Maysville, Oklahoma, August, 1930, uniting with the Missionary Baptist Church there. He surrendered to the call to the ministry, November, 1940, and was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry by the San Pablo Missionary Baptist Church at Richmond, in a Fifth Sunday Meeting service, in May 1942.

Soon after his ordination he was called to the pastorate of the Tuolumne Missionary Baptist Church, and served her till the membership near all moved away, and the church dissolved. But he labored faithfully during his time there.

From there he was called to the pastorate of El Nido Missionary Baptist Church, where he labored and attended school at the Missionary Baptist Bible School, about a year, doing a good work, but was not called for the second year, and he moved to Fresno, living in the Church Sunday school rooms for some time, with his wife and baby, while attending school, and with the help of Elder C. E. Hunt he went to Madras, and they canvassed the town, rented a building and conducted a two weeks meeting and organized a church, where Bro. Crouch labored faithfully, working as a welder, attending Bible school and pastoring the church. After laboring near two years in that manner, Bro. Crouch resigned as Pastor and with the assistance of Elder John Cooper went to Armona and organized a church,

and was called as pastor, laboring there, building first a small building, then a large brick building for the church and turning the small one into a parsonage. He labored faithfully there, doing a great work during which time he graduated from the Bible School with the degree of B. A. G.

Here in Armona men whom he had helped in a wonderful way, especially, one who claimed to have been called to preach, did a lot of undermining work and hurtful work, and made it so miserable that Bro. Crouch would no longer tolerate the hindrances, and he resigned and moved to Salinas and went to work, waiting on the Lord for an open door. Salinas church was torn up because of underhanded wickedness against the church; Brother Dowdle had accepted a temporary pastorate till they could get a pastor. He had started the church on her way to recovery, and they called Bro. Crouch. He led her on to victory, and during his approximately two years pastorate there did the best work that had

(Continued on page 4)

Sister Crouch Writes . . .

Dear Brother Hunt:

I want everyone who has been so kind to know how much I appreciate the nice cards and encouraging letters and sympathy shown me. I tried to send cards to each church and individual who has remembered me, but there have been so many, I am sure that I have missed some. I do not want to leave anyone out, and wish to use this means of thanking everyone. Also for the love offerings that I have received. They were so badly needed, and certainly appreciated. I want especially to mention the young people of the Northern District Rally who have remembered me with two nice offerings — one from the Air Port Church, one from Hagginwood Church. I thank God for friends upon whom we can depend when we need them most. Above all I thank him most for the comforting words that strengthen us and cause us to go on and do his will even in a time of sorrow which we have just experienced.

I need your prayers, that I will always be found in His service, and that I might raise my children in the right way. Thank you again, and may God's richest blessings rest upon you all.

Ann Crouch and Children

Charles Crouch Called Home

(Continued from page 1)

ever been done in the church. But as no man, who stands 100% for the truth and Christian principles in a Baptist church, will be free of enemies in the church, neither was Bro. Crouch free of enemies there. And many believe that he was undermined from within, and without, and voted out of the pastorate. He was then called to Friendship Missionary Baptist church East of Sacramento. The church was somewhat upset and it took several months to get the church fully united, and get going. But Brother Crouch, standing true on every principle, stood true there, and preached the gospel as few men can preach it and the church was building in a great way, at the time of his death.

Brother Crouch leaves his wife Ann, 33, son Larry 9, and daughter Vickey Lynn, of his immediate family; his mother Anna Crouch; and brothers O. D., Dallas (who was with him at his last struggle for survival in a whirlpool in Feather River), Joe; and sisters Dorothy and Lois (all in California except Dorothy who is in Texas) and were present at his funeral.

The loss of Brother Crouch is the greatest loss that I have any knowledge of to the Missionary Baptist cause, since the brutish murder of Brother H. M. Cagle during world war one, at about the age of Bro. Crouch. I have known him since 1939, if I remember correctly, and have never seen him upset, or disturbed to such extent that one could recognize any irritation. He had much more sense than the average preacher. Before he had any bible schooling or preparation, he was elected missionary, and while I did not oppose his election, I contended that he was not qualified to meet the obstacles and heresies that a missionary would have to meet. I said it is like sending an untrained soldier out against hardened trained, experienced soldiers. He took it in the SPIRIT OF A CHRISTIAN. I talked to him about it, saying that I was not opposed to him, but opposed to putting on him a work too hard for him. He answered: "You don't owe me any apology; you have not done me any harm." He admitted that he was not qualified for the mission field, and showed a great appreciation for me, instead of falling out with me, as many have

would not allow Bro. Crouch to answer the charges, and he sat down, like a Christian, without a word of complaint.

I moderated for him in two debates, and he was cool, deliberate, and sweet spirited. He was truly one of our outstanding preachers, in love with Christ, in love with the TRUE CHURCHES OF CHRIST in love with the Word of God, and qualified for every good work. He also loved his friends, but hated sin and wickedness. In spite of the opposition to him, by those who would destroy him, he was always elected to preach at Associational and Fifth Sunday meetings. All who truly loved the truth and real preaching, loved to hear Charles Crouch preach. Like H. M. Cagle, his place will not be filled. He will be missed, as few men have ever been missed. He was dependable and always on the job, at all our regular meetings. He had written on a fly leaf of a Bible, that, in case of dying suddenly, he wanted Bro. C. E. Hunt to preach his funeral, and wanted the funeral in the church of which he should be the pastor, at the time of his death, and the songs which he wanted sung. Brethren A. A. Moore, Troy Misc, Herbert Schaub and Bro. Moore's daughter did the singing. Bro. Luther Cooper read the obituary, Bro. Richard Harless offered the opening prayer, the writer preached the funeral sermon: A JOB MIGHTY HARD TO DO, yet I was glad to do it, as I have never known a man whom I loved more than I did Bro. Crouch. The songs sung were "I Will Meet You in the Morning," "The Unseen Hand," and "Think of the Home Over There," and it was well rendered. And though every part was rendered with sorrowful tears, because of his going, every one taking part dearly loved him. Bro. Jesse Scott made a few closing remarks, and at the cemetery, after reading a few verses of Scripture by the writer, Bro. John Cooper made a short talk and offered the closing prayer, and his body was laid to rest in the East Lawn Cemetery in Sacramento, to await the resurrection, when the LORD will come, the trumpet will sound, and Brother Charles' body will come forth to meet his wife and children and the rest of his loved ones, and his brethren who will miss him through their life time, and he will then receive his reward for his faithfulness and long suffering for the cause of Christ, which he loved more than life itself. Let us pray for his wife and children.

From the August 1952 The California Missionary Baptist—Fresno, California

Larry W. Crouch— Death of Bro. Charles Crouch

Bro. Charles Crouch Gone Home To Glory Continued from previous

the end of their life's journey, is my prayer.

Bro. Crouch and his Brother Dallas were fishing in Feather River, and he saw some little Mexican girls about to drown. Though there were men after them Charles saw they were not going to get them out and he plunged in with all his clothes on to save them. After getting them in a boat, he started back, and got into a whirlpool, and was so nearly exhausted that he was not able to get out. Bro. Dallas tried to save him, and came near drowning, and a Mexican, I understood, the girls' father, jumped in to rescue Charles, and he drowned also. Bro. Crouch, like our Saviour, gave his life for others. He was in the La Habra Bible Conference and taught Sermonizing just about eight days before his death. He was a great teacher and loved to teach. His last sermon will appear in the next issue of this paper. He is missed, but he will not be soon forgotten. The LORD bless our ever remembrance of him.

— C. E. HUNT

Concerning Charles Crouch

It made us sad to hear of the death of Bro. Charles Crouch. He was one of our very best leaders, an able preacher, teacher, and debater. But we will have to submit to God's will. Remember Rom. 28.

A glorious rest is promised, a home forever bright,
Where clouds shall never gather and where there is no night.
Then palms and crowns await us and robes of spotless white,
But the best of all is heaven and where there is no night.
When aloof from earthly trials the Spirit takes its flight
To dwell in realms of glory where Jesus is the light.

Chorus —

No night, no night, but eternal day is given; no night, no night. There will be no night in Heaven.



Personal Testimony of Larry W. Crouch

By Request from *The Landmark Baptist Historian*
January 31, 2017

I was saved in of June in 1952. My Uncle Jesse Scott preached a Revival that week at the Friendship MBC in Sacramento. Several other kids around my age had come forward and trusted Christ as their Savior during the meeting. Sunday Night I got under conviction so bad that I left the service and went to the house. It was attached to the back of the church building and my mother wasn't feeling well so

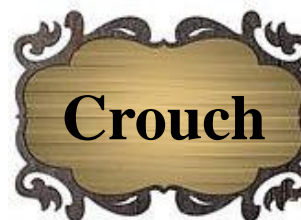


she was at home. When services were over and my dad came in the front door the first thing he asked was, "Why did you get up and leave services?" And crying I said, "I don't want to go to hell." So after a short talk, my dad, mom, Uncle Joe Crouch, and I knelt in front of the sofa and I trusted the Lord as my Savior. I was baptized the following Sunday in the American River. That following week, July 5th was when my dad Charles drowned while helping save to girls.

I surrendered to preach on Sunday night August 4, 1957 just before my 15th birthday on the 30th. I had been troubled about preaching for several months. Bro. Charles Jamerson had been preaching from 1 -2 Timothy. That night Bro. Tom Counts, who had recently surrendered preach, brought the message and talked some about his call. This gave me the courage to step forward. I was licensed by the Bayshore MBC of Vallejo. I was ordained by the South Gate MBC May 31, 1964 and accepted the call to pastor in Auburn Washington.

I've learned so many things while pastoring it would be difficult to list them all. But in a nutshell - Keep your heart in touch with the Lord on a daily basis - Keep your lessons and sermons fresh, if they don't touch your life and heart the are not likely to reach others - and most of all be patient and wait upon the Lord.

LWC



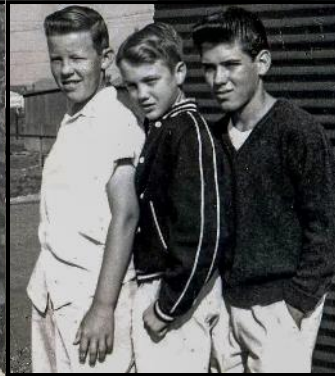
This Article is from the
Ruby French Scrapbook.

From the August 1952 Cali. Miss. Baptist—Fresno,

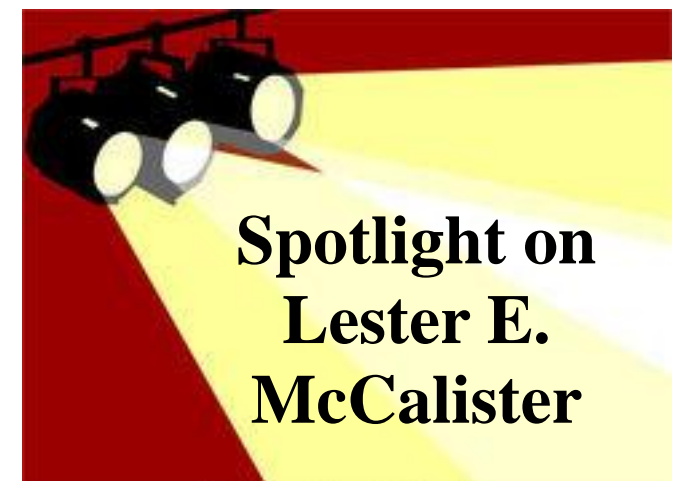
Larry W. Crouch— Facebook Gleanings



Larry W. Crouch— Facebook Gleanings



See
Inset



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Sister Emma Jean Vance has sent numerous
Photos after relocating to Arkansas.
Thank you Sis. Vance