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ELDER JOHNNY C. KARPPE

Johnny C. Karppe was born March 12, 1924 in Plant City, Florida. He lived most of his life in the Plant City area.

On April 11, 1946, Johnny was united in marriage with his beloved wife, Lydie Blanton. Their marriage was blessed with four children and seven grandchildren.

Johnny Karppe was gladly received and baptized into Mt. Enon Church by Elder Cecil Bass in 1965. Johnny and Lydie later moved their membership to Peace River Church in Ft. Meade, Florida, in March 1979.

Bro. Johnny was ordained as an Elder in December 1968. He served as pastor for Mt. Caramel, Peace River, Welcome, and Gethsemane Churches. He served as moderator of the Mt. Enon Association held at Salem Church in 1975. Johnny Karppe was a faithful servant and loved the church and all that it stood for.

Bro. Johnny Karppe was an honest and caring man. He was called to his heavenly home on June 14, 1985.

ELDER F. E. KAYS



next morning (Sunday) as the sun came up.

I was born in Pryor, Oklahoma on August 27, 1909. My parents, William P. and Julia C. Kays, were Primitive Baptists. At the age of 19, I moved to Missouri, going into public work. It was there I found the cunning craftiness of wicked men. This bothered me. Soon I began to have serious thoughts of life after death. I wanted to be a good man, but all I could find was a man altogether undone and full of evil. I labored under these conditions for a long time, feeling so unworthy, yet I loved the Primitive Baptists above all people on earth, and did not feel fit, or worthy of their love. But, in 1932, the sweet hope was made mine to rejoice in. At the Association in Centralia, Okla., I asked for a home with the people I loved, and was baptized by Eld. O. E. O'Dell the

It was at Independence, Mo. that I met my wife, Frances Kleuver, daughter of Carl and Ruth Kleuver. We were married in 1935, and to this union two daughters, Carol and Nancy, were born.

After World War II came to a close, I returned home to find the impression to tell others of the wonderful love of our Savior Jesus Christ kept growing. The more it grew, the more I rebelled and struggled to put it out of my mind, but to no avail. In 1949, I made my first effort to speak by using a text. This was at Iola, Kansas. I made two more efforts, then after that, I was asked to attend other churches so often that I seldom got to attend my home church. I served two churches before I was ordained, and since that time have served from one to four churches.

About six years ago, I had three heart attacks, and am not the pastor of any church at present; but continue to preach here in Phoenix and in California.

ELDER CLARENCE A. KEATEN

WRITTEN BY ELDER GUS HARTER: The churches of the Atlanta area were saddened by the passing of Elder Clarence A. Keaten, February 25, 1990, at the age of 85. He was born in Douglas County, Ga., on January 5, 1905. His father was Elder W.R. Keaten, a Primitive Baptist minister in the New Hope Association.

Clarence married Nettie Winn Keaten. They had two sons, Robert and James.

Elder J. A. Monsees baptized him into the Bethany Church of Atlanta Georgia. He was ordained to the work of the ministry in 1946.

During Brother Keaten's long ministerial labors, he served Camp Creek Church in Lilburn, Fellowship Church near Monticello, Browns Church in Lexington, West Atlanta Church and Crossroads Church of Atlanta. His service to the cause of our Lord was faithful and profitable. Brother Keaten held a public position as an accountant for the Agricultural and Chemical Division of U.S. Steel and has been retired for a number of years. He faithfully served several churches until he was disabled by a stroke.

ELDER W. R. KEATON

In September 1915, he joined Cool Springs Primitive Baptist Church. On October 1, 1926, he was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry. On May 13, 1951, he united with West Atlanta, where he remained a loyal and faithful member until November 3, 1961 when the Lord called him to his eternal home.

ELDER FREDERICK W. KEENE

Elder Frederick W. Keene was born in London, England, March 28, 1856, and moved with his parents to Montreal, Canada, in his fourteenth year. He united with the New School Baptists in 1873 and began preaching for them in 1875, but soon became dissatisfied with their doctrine and practices, and withdrew from the New School in 1880. In February 1881, he united with the Old School Baptists, was baptized by Elder William L. Beebe, was soon ordained, and began serving Churches. He lived for a long while at North Berwick, Maine, and served the Church of that place among others. Elder Keene traveled extensively in his early ministry, extending his visits to Canada, and to many of the States of the Union. After visiting North Carolina, and preaching extensively in North Carolina and Virginia, beginning his visits to North Carolina about 1912, Elder Keene, upon the urgent requests and solicitations from many of the able ministers and laity of North Carolina, finally decided to move to North Carolina, and located in Raleigh, N. C., where he lived until his death early this year. Elder Keene traveled among the Churches, and visited regularly, from year to year, most of the Associations in North Carolina and Virginia, and the Mill Branch Association in South Carolina, since coming to North Carolina. He was a student of the Bible, and was not only one of our ablest preachers, but perhaps one of the sweetest writers of his generation. He wrote for many of our religious periodicals, and his writings were highly prized. Some time after coming to North Carolina, he put his "Letter" with our Church at Gilltam's, where he remained in fellowship and high esteem until death.

ELDER R. L. KEETON

FROM AN OBITUARY IN THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST:" This dearly beloved and able minister was born in Kentucky on March 20, 1869, and passed away in his sleep at his home in Tampa, Fla., Oct. 17, 1944. He moved, with his mother, one brother and one sister, to Iowa when he was four years old, his father having died when he was one year old.

He united with the Primitive Baptist Church at Grinnell, Iowa, in January 1901 and was baptized by Elder R. A. Oliphant. He was soon impressed with the duty of preaching the gospel of Christ, and was ordained in November 1907. He was soon called to the care of his home church and served them for about 27 years, until his doctors advised him to give up his work and go to Florida for his health. He also served Sardis Church in St. Petersburg, Fla., as their pastor one winter.

ELDER JOSEPH S. KELLEY

FROM AN OBITUARY IN THE "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST:" Elder Kelley was born in Coosa County, Alabama, April 4, 1860, and died June 19, 1944. In 1879, he married Miss Elizabeth Rich, and to this union three sons and four daughters were born.

Elder Kelley joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Bethel, in Chilton County, Ala., being baptized by Elder Joseph R. Monk in September 1905. He was licensed to preach October 12, 1907 and ordained September 10, 1909. He was chosen to serve Bethel Church on November 9, 1912, served two years, and was chosen again on August 12, 1916, and continued as pastor until his death, living in honor to his profession and was faithful to his church in every way.

Love for the church seemed to dominate his life. He was not easy to be led away by smooth words; was firm in Bible truths and church practice. He believed in honesty and uprightness, most especially in the church membership. He talked much about the church and God's business in his last days. He repeatedly warned the brethren to live and work for peace, which seemed to be one of his greatest traits. His admonition to the brethren and sisters was always to stand firm in the future as they had done in the past.

ELDER WILLIAM SHIRLEY KELLEY, SR.

Elder Kelley was born Oct. 7, 1909 in Fulton County, to J.C. and Mattie Shirley Kelley, and died Feb. 12, 1992 at his home in Hart County.

Elder Kelley experienced baptism on Aug. 19, 1937 and was ordained on Sept. 18, 1942 at Big Creek Church. Elder Kelley was a member of Big Creek Church for 55 years. During his 50 years as a Primitive Baptist Elder, he pastored Old Bethel, Rock Springs, Friendship, Shoal Creek, Ebenezer and Big Creek Churches. At his death he was the oldest Elder in the Little River Association.

Elder Kelley married Vivian Velma Jones on Dec. 18, 1927 in Fulton County.

ELDER ALBERT ROY KELLY



Elder Kelly was born near Clayton, Alabama, to Eld W. I. Kelly and wife Addie Clair November 21, 1903.

He was in silent movies as a comedian for 4 or 5 years in the early twenties. Then he went back to Orlando and lived with parents. Roy moved with his parents to a farm near Edison, Georgia, in 1927. Pretty soon he started dating a girl (Mildred Blackshear) and they married September 12, 1929. They raised 6 children, 5 boys and one girl. They lost 2 babies, a boy with diphtheria and a little girl burned to death.

Roy and his wife joined the church in April 1932; they were baptized by his dad, Elder W. I. Kelly. After many years the churches began to call on Roy to pray and talk. He was liberated in April 1958. In July 1959 New Prospect Church called for his ordination. He was ordained in October 1959. He served New Prospect Church as long as he lived. He also served Poplar Springs Church at Preston, Georgia, and Antioch Church in Alabama.

Roy had a serious heart attack in January 1961. He was in the hospital six weeks. The doctors said they had done all they could, it was in the Lord's hands. He finally recovered enough to go home but the doctor said he'd never be able to preach or work again.

But the Lord wasn't ready for him--he went back to work and again preached to his churches for 13 more years.

He had another heart attack June 1, 1974. The doctors said again they were doing all they could but he had too much damage to live. He passed away June 24, 1974.

ELDER WILLIAM ISAAC KELLY



Elder Kelly was born near Clayton, Alabama, November 21, 1864. He never knew his father, who was killed in the War Between the States.

He married Addie Clair Clifton from Eufaula, Alabama. They had six children, 3 girls and 3 boys. They made a meager living farming for several years.

William had an Aunt who was a businesswoman in Orlando. She set him up in business running a grocery store and gradually it began to pay off.

He was ordained to the ministry in 1906 before he moved to Florida. He served several churches in the Eufaula area after moving. William served Orange Church in Orlando and several other churches in the area.

In 1927 William sold his store and property and bought a farm near Edison, Georgia. He served Mars Hill Church and several churches in Alabama. His wife died and he married Arger Ward 2 years later. He lived to be almost 100 years old.

He was well respected and loved by all that knew him. He passed away August 1963 at Roy's home.

ELDER BERLON WISE KEMP



Elder Kemp was born on March 3, 1927 in Kimball, West Virginia to Wise and Lena Marie Alderman Kemp. He married Cosby Elizabeth Kilby Kemp, daughter of Elder Isaac Webb Kilby, on September 4, 1949. To this union two children were born: Richard Michael and Rebecca Elizabeth.

He joined Rich Creek Church in May of 1954 along with his wife. They were baptized together. He was liberated in 1955 and was ordained in 1957. He pastored the Stonewall Church in Check, Virginia and White Oak Grove Church in Riner, Virginia.

He moved to Roanoke, Virginia in 1903 after being injured in a coal mine at Gary, West Virginia in 1960. He served the cause of Christ willingly and eagerly for 37 years and his main agenda was the message of love and peace. He passed from this life on June 13, 1994.

ELDER CAL KENNEDY

WRITTEN BY MARK GREEN: Elder Calvin Kennedy was born in Greenwood, Arkansas, the son of A. J. and Dessa Kennedy. Although his wife, Alice, had been a Primitive Baptist, Bro. Cal did not join the church until he was 31 years old. He was baptized into the fellowship of Pilgrims Rest Church of Arkhoma, Oklahoma, by Elder Ray Piles.

Bro. Cal began filling regular appointments in 1969, and was ordained to the full work of the ministry on July 29, 1978. The presbytery was made up of Elders Hoyt Poore (moderator), Charles Sandage, Russell Waldrip, Ray Piles, S. F. Morrisett, N. A. Cooper, James Winston, Ernie Stump and Ralph Sandage. Elder Cooper questioned Bro. Kennedy during the ordination, and Elder Piles preached the charge. Elder Kennedy has served Ball Creek, Pilgrims Rest, Little Flock and Mount Pleasant Churches and the church located near Siloam Springs, Ark. He currently is pastor of Pilgrims Rest, his home church, and Little Flock Church near Mansfield, Ark. Bro. Cal is a great encourager of the Lord's people, cheerful and enthusiastic in his demeanor. He is sound in the faith and has a wonderful gift of illustration in his preaching. Having pastored churches in the Salem Association, he has served on several occasions as moderator of that meeting, and has frequently been asked to serve in that capacity at ordination services, where he presides in his characteristically kind and efficient manner. He is a beloved and familiar figure among the churches of western Arkansas, who appreciate his faithful labors.

ELDER SMITH KETCHUM

Elder Ketchum was born on January 7, 1840 at Burren, Ohio and passed from this life on January 29, 1923. He united with the Burren Grove Church in Henry County, Illinois on November 19, 1870. He was ordained in June 1873. He served the Burren Grove Church and the Mt. Vernon Church in Kansas City MO.

In 1903, he moved from McDonough County, Illinois where he had charge of two churches, to a farm in Republic County, Kansas. In 1909, he was elected to the State Senate in Nebraska. In 1914, he and his wife moved to Kansas City, MO and became members of Mt. Vernon Church. In 1919, he moved to Canon City, CO, where he died of apoplexy in 1923.

ELDER G. O. KEY

FROM A NOTICE IN "ADVOCATE & MESSENGER" WRITTEN BY ELDER R. H. PITTMAN: Elder Key, of Pilot Mountain, N. C., fell asleep in his 80th year on November 22, 1933. For 37 years he had served his home church as pastor and also served other churches in western North Carolina and will be greatly missed. He was a lovely and useful man.

ELDER RUSSELL KEY



I was born November 20, 1918 in Audrain County, Mo. to George A. and Ida E. (Butler) Key. As they were farmers, I followed that line until about twenty years ago when we moved to Moberly, Mo. In July of 1944, I united with Mt. Pleasant Church near Madison, Mo. and was baptized the first Sunday of August of that year by my pastor, Elder W. A. Chastain. My main reason for uniting with the Primitive Baptists was that they preached the "All Powerful God" and did not deny the power of God in any way. In December 1943, I married Julia Maude Wilson, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Walter Wilson. The first Sunday of March 1947, I made my first talk in public, and was ordained the first Sunday of November 1949. Since March 1972, I have had a radio program on the Moberly Radio Station. The Primitive Baptists have been so good to my wife and me. We have had the privilege of serving Churches in Missouri and visiting in seventeen states of our great nation. At present I am pastor of my home Church (Mt. Pleasant) and Chariton in Macon County, Mo.

ELDER BLAIR KILBY



SUBMITTED BY HIS SON, EDMUND C. KILBY: Elder Blair M. Kilby born March 12, 1908 at Sturgills N. C., son of Millard and Annie (Duvall) Kilby. He passed from life on December 15, 1993 at Peach Bottom, PA. He married Wave (Farmer) Kilby Dec. 2, 1929. They had two children: Anita (Kilby) Duncan and Edmund Kilby.

He joined Big Helton Church at Sturgills, N.C., and was licensed to preach on the third Sat. in April 1933. He was ordained to the Ministry third Sat. in July 1935. He was assistant pastor at Big Helton Church for many years.

On June 14, 1951, he moved to Peach Bottom, PA. He visited and preached at several Primitive Baptist churches in PA, MD and DE.

On May 4, 1963, he organized a church at Tyloria, PA with the help of Landmark Church in PA, Mt. Carmel Church in MD and Wilmington Church in DE. He pastored Tyloria Church from May 4, 1963 until March 18, 1989.

Due to declining health and age, he decided he was not able to pastor a church anymore. They wrote out letters for all members to go to another church, most members went to Mt. Carmel Church, where he preached occasionally up until a few months before he died. He preached for 60 years from the time he was licensed to preach until the year he died.

ELDER CHARLIE KILBY



WRITTEN BY HIS REQUEST BY SISTER MADGE REEVES: Charlie, son of Elder Troy Kilby and wife, Marantha Spencer Kilby, was born May 2, 1882, and passed away in Waddell Hospital October 20, 1970.

On December 27, 1905, he was united in marriage to Maxie Koontz, who preceded him in death by several years.

On the third Saturday in June 1911, he was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry at Big Helton Church in Ashe County, with which church he had united in April 1905.

He came to Sparta in 1932 and in July of that year he joined by letter, with his wife, Little River Church and remained a faithful member until death. Soon afterwards he was elected pastor of the church and for about 38 years remained in that capacity, except for a space of time that he lived in Maryland. For the last 18 years he was co-pastor with Elder Evans.

ELDER I. W. KILBY



I was born May 3, 1900 at Rugby, Grayson County, Va., the son of Elder T. H. and Cosby Spencer Kilby.

I have faith to believe that I was born again in 1921, but I was so skeptical and felt so unworthy that I never joined the church I loved until 1929, and was baptized in May of that year. I started exercising in public soon after that. I joined the church in Bluefield, W. Va.

I was ordained to the full functions of the ministry in 1937. When I look back over my past life and see that I have been blessed to bury in baptism 64 members into the church where my membership is at the present time, and about a hundred in our other churches in Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina, it causes a glow of thankfulness to swell up in my heart to think that the Lord would be so good to one so unworthy as I feel to be.

My wife joined the church in June 1934. She was Miss Naomi Burcham of Tazewell, Virginia. My wife is a very devoted and established member of the church and has been much help to me in my life in the ministry.

ELDER TROY H. KILBY

Was born Sept., 4, 1854. Was married April 4, 1875, to Marintha Spencer by Eld Ruben Kirby. Married the second time to Cosby Spencer Dec. 3, 1892. To the first union were born four boys and two girls. To the second union six boys and four girls, two boys and two girls of second union dying in infancy. He received a hope March 15, 1875, and joined the Church at Big Helton in 1875. Baptized the same year; licensed to preach third Saturday in May, 1884; ordained by Elders T. C. Barker and H. B. Miller, in the presence of Elders W. M. Lundy, B. E. Caudill, C. C. Davis, Elisha Roup, Noah Baldwin, and Reuben Kilby the third Saturday in November, 1886. He died July 28, 1924. He was Moderator of Senter Association about 33 years.

ELDER ARTHUR M. KINSEY

WRITTEN BY ELDER DANA KINSEY: Elder Kinsey was born in Meyers, Arkansas on August 5, 1912. He was a certified electrician and an accomplished carpenter. He married Ina Lorene Welch in McAlester, Oklahoma on November 5, 1935. He was ordained to the office of Elder in the year 1972 in Arizona, where he was the pastor of Bethel Church in Phoenix. He later moved to Mena, Arkansas where he was called to the pastoral care of New Prospect Church in Board Camp, Arkansas. While living in Mena he wrote and published two novels. The first, Dayna of the Anasazi and the second was The Final Flight of the Screaming Arrow. These reflected his interest in the ancient people of the American Southwest. Elder Kinsey died on September 27, 1992, still faithfully discharging the duties of the calling wherewith he was called.

ELDER DANA DEWAYNE KINSEY

Born in Phoenix, Arizona on December 11, 1969. He is the grandson of Arthur Millard Kinsey and the great-great grandson of Jesse Sanford Kinsey. He is a certified HVACR technician. He married Verla Dea Staggs in Mena, Arkansas on April 1, 1988. Ordained to the office of Elder on October 3, 1998 at New Prospect Church, in Board Camp, Arkansas. Elder Kinsey currently (as of September 1999) serves as pastor at Harmony Church. The church is located in Mena, Arkansas.

ELDER JESSE SANFORD KINSEY

Born in Gordon County, GA on October 4, 1845. He served in the Union Army, Company G, Fourth Regiment, Arkansas Calvary. He was married to Susan Emeline Wacaster in Montgomery County, Arkansas. He died on February 26, 1926 at the age of 80 and is buried at Peak Cemetery, Garland County, Arkansas.

ELDER E. L. KINTER

Elder E. L. Kinter, age 88, had a severe heart attack Sunday, July 14th, and was called to that glorious home early Monday morning. He joined the Primitive Baptist Church and was baptized by the late Elder Levi Hite in October 1911.

ELDER JOHN EDWARD KIRKPATRICK

Elder Kirkpatrick was born June 24, 1938, in Monahans, TX, to Elder John Spencer and Sister Annie Louise (Bess) Kirkpatrick.

The family began attending Midland Church in 1944 or 45. The doctrines of grace preached by Elder Ben Howze, Pastor of Midland Church at that time were sweet and refreshing. Edward was one of 11 baptized at the conclusion of the West Providence Association in 1949. He was baptized by Elder Ben Howze.



Elder Kirkpatrick began introducing services at the age of 16 and continued to do so until the age of 21 when he entered the Army. After completing boot camp he was sent to Seattle, Washington, where he met Gloria McCoskrie who became his bride September 16, 1961. After returning from 13 months in peacetime Korea, the family, which included one son, Edward Allen, born while he was in Korea, stayed in Seattle to reside. Two more children, David Earl and Karin Suzanne, were born while residing in Seattle.

In 1970 the family moved to Midland, TX, and settled down. Kathleen Dawn was born within a month of their arrival. After several years of attempting to preach God's glorious Gospel, the church called for Ed's ordination which was held 5th Sunday in June, 1978.

In October of 1980, the Colorado City Primitive Baptist Church, known as Bethel, was organized with eight constituting members; Elder Kirkpatrick was called as Pastor. He labored with these Brethren for eight wonderful years.

In December of 1989, he accepted the call to pastor the Andrews, TX, church. He labored with them for a two-year period and resigned. The following year he filled appointments in various churches throughout the state but spent much of his time with the church at San Angelo acting as Interim Pastor.

In December of 1991, he accepted a call to pastor the Tidewater Primitive Baptist Church in Norfolk, VA.

ELDER SPENCE KIRKPATRICK



My father Earl Kirkpatrick married Lillie O. Elliott August 29, 1914 in mother's home near Olney, Texas.

I was born April 8, 1915 near Eldert in Throckmorton County, Texas. I am the oldest of 15 children: 11 girls and 4 boys.

I went to Monahans, Texas in the winter of 1936 and worked for a while and went back home to Goree awhile. Then one day I was grubbing out in a ranch pasture and I thought I heard some one call my name. The third time it said, "Go back to Monahans." So I went home the next day and went to Monahans. The first person I met other than kinfolks was Miss Norma Louise Netzel. We were married August 1, in 1937.

I felt that the Lord called me to preach in 1930, but I said Lord this is too much for me, and I would not go back to church. In January 1946, I asked wife if she wanted to go to Church with me.

We were late, brother Howze was already preaching, so we went in and sat down on the back seat. And as I looked at Elder Howze, I could not hold back the tears. When the next meeting time came, I could not stay away. So we went to church and after the service I asked Howze to go home with me so he did. Then Sunday morning when they gave opportunity for membership I offered myself to the Church and wife followed me. We were received which was the second Sunday in February of 1946 and were baptized by Elder Howze March 10, 1946.

I was ordained to the full work of the ministry on May 12, 1951. The presbytery consisted of the following elders and deacons: B. R. Howze, E. S. Morrisett O. C. Floyd, and W. H. Fox and C. L. Casey; deacons J. H. Shelton, D. L. Handlin, J. L. Hester, Robert Smith; J. L. McKimney; W. F. Sides; W. M. Randolph; W. T. Guthrie; J. E. Barrington; B. T. Hale, J. D. Beauchamp and T. H. Randolph. Elder B. R. Howze was elected moderator and Brother Barrington as clerk. Brother Burt was appointed as spokesman for the church and Eld. Fox to deliver the ordination prayer and brother Morrisett to deliver the charge.

ELDER CHARLES H. KITCHENS



I was born in Birmingham, Alabama, on October 22, 1956 and I really can't remember a time when I did not believe that Jesus was the Christ and our Savior. As a young boy of about 13, I promised the Lord if he would just help with certain tasks then I would join the church. I may not have thought much about the pledge at that time but the Lord never let me forget. After a year of feeling that my pastor, Elder J. M. Bullard was preaching only to me and feeling the convicting power of the Holy Spirit in relation to my sin and the need for obedience, I submitted myself to church for membership and baptism. I was baptized on August 5, 1972 and became a member of El Bethel Church.

As a member of the church, I felt I should try to do whatever the church might ask and occasionally was called upon to introduce the services at our church. Within two months of graduating from college in May of 1980, our church was abruptly left without anyone to fill the regular appointment and I was called upon fill the time. From this time forward, I began to be called upon to exercise. I eventually filled a regular appointment at my home church and in November of 1986, was called to serve James Creek Church near Tremont, Mississippi, although I was not yet ordained.

In August 1988, I joined Zion Rest Church in Jasper, Alabama, led by a conviction that a person needed to have their membership near where they lived and that this was the best pattern for raising a family in the church. I was still serving James Creek and began to work to help them restore fellowship with churches in northern Alabama. Zion Rest established a Sunday night service in order to give me an opportunity to exercise, calling for my ordination in July 1990. On the day of my ordination, my wife of nearly 10 years joined the church and the church called me serve them two Sundays per month along with the Sunday night service. I had the privilege of baptizing my wife the next day and eventually all three of my children.

I continued to serve James Creek Church until January 1997. We saw the church grow from 6 to 13 members during the time I served there. I was called to serve Zion Rest as pastor in July 1996. From April 1998 to December 1999, our church has been blessed with 25 new members, half of these members having come to the church by way of baptism.

MINISTERS IN THE ORDINATION OF ELDER CHARLES H. KITCHENS: Elder Armond Ritch - Pastor of Zion Rest, Elder Glenn Payne, Elder Thomas R. Blair, Elder G. Wayne Crocker, Elder Odell Deese, Elder W. G. Hall, Elder Edwin Farris, Elder Louis Culver, Elder Robert L. Willis, Elder Clayton C. O'Mary, Elder Gary A. Cordes, Elder Ronald Gilmore, Elder Ken Mallard, Elder Ben Tindall, Elder Elbert Barton

ELDER J. E. KITCHENS



Elder James Elmore Kitchens was born on June 16, 1912 and passed from this life on June 13, 1979. He was married to the former Elma Morrow and to this union four daughters were born: Jackie, Jetty, Jean and Jaye. He was baptized by Elder W. L. Kitchens at the Liberty Church in Sumiton, Alabama. He was ordained to the ministry in June 1937 at the Sulphur Springs Church in Parrish, Alabama.

Elder Kitchens would go to singings to keep from the impressions that he was called to preach. He wrote songs and taught singing schools all his life. He was asked to revive the Sacred Harp Hymn Book. Before his death in June 1979, he was president of the Sacred Harp Publishing Company.

He helped build several churches in the course of his lifetime – in Jasper and in Birmingham. He preached for 42 years before he was called home. He served one to four churches a month, among which were Sulphur Springs, Liberty, Rocky Mount, Mt. Pleasant, Bush Hills, and Oakdale. There are all in the central and northern part of Alabama. He served Zion's Rest Church in Jasper for 29 years and Five Mile Church in Akron for 24 years. He also served a church in Eudora, Arkansas and numerous others.

ELDER W. L. KITCHENS

FROM "A HISTORY OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS OF ALABAMA, MT. ZION ASSOCIATION" BY ELDER E. B. WATTS: To the best of our knowledge, Elder Wiley Kitchens was ordained in 1932 at Sulphur Springs Church the year after that church came into the association. Besides Sulphur Springs, Elder Kitchens pastored Liberty, most of the time together with his son, Elder J. E. Kitchens.

Elder Kitchens left the Mount Zion Association in 1950 when Sulphur Springs Church was dissolved.

ELDER HARRISON KNIGHT

Elder Knight was born in Flamingon Township, Hamilton Co., Illinois, Sept. 3, 1873, the son of James and Sarilda Foster Knight. His father and mother both died when he was three years of age, and he was reared in the home of an uncle and aunt, in whose good home he received his early training. In January 1896, he was united in marriage with Effie C. Lockwood, and to this union four children were born.

Early in life, he would listen to old ones tell their experiences and would wish that he would say the same. While leading a song at Little Spring Church at the funeral of a faithful mother in the church, he was made to feel at "this world is not my home." He united with Little Spring in 1905 and was baptized by Elder S. R. Foster, the pastor and his uncle in the flesh.

He was ordained by that church to the full work of the Gospel Ministry on May 13, 1922. Since his ordination he served Little Springs Church until his death in May 1958. Also, at the time of his death, he was pastor of New Hope Church and Rector Church in Illinois. Other churches which he served as pastor include Crossville, Mt. Vernon, Iola, Bethel, Lick Creek, Salem, Moore's Prairie, North Fork, Pleasant Grove and Alma; all in Illinois, and Cynthiana, Poseyville and Wadesville, all in Indiana.

ELDER ORVILLE A. KNIGHT

FROM "GOSPEL APPEAL:" Elder Orville A. Knight was born Feb. 28, 1874, in Berrien County, Georgia, and passed away at his home in Valdosta, Ga., Dec. 27, 1950.

Orville A. Knight united with Empire Church, Berrien County, Ga., on July 22, 1909. He was baptized by Elder W.H. Parrish. On Nov. 27, 1915, he was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry. Elders forming the presbytery for his ordination were I. A. Wetherington, H.W. Parrish, B.L. Starling, and A. A. Knight.

Elder Knight was called to serve his home church, Empire, in 1925 and over the years of his ministry also served as pastor of Ramah, Prospect, Olive Leaf, Bethany (Arabia), Unity, Cat Creek, Wayfare (Cow Creek), Ben James, Union (Burnt Church), Providence and other churches.

In 1903, Elder T.R. Crawford wrote in the GOODWILL of his impressions of Elder Knight and described him as "one of the most loved, esteemed, honored and respected servants of the most High God that has ever graced the pulpit of the churches of the deep south."

ELDER ALBERT PERRY KOEN

Elder A. P. Koen (better known as "Uncle Ab") was born in 1856 and died in 1926. He served the Primitive Baptists for over 40 years. He and his brother Dempsey are remembered in Central and West Texas. Elder Henry Ball said, "I knew and often heard Elder A. P. and Dempsey preach. They were noble men of God."

ELDER DEMPSEY KOEN

Elder Dempsey Bowden Koen was born in 1854 and died in 1930. He moved from Hamilton County, Texas, and settled in Wellington, Texas in about 1895. He resided there until his death. The church at Wellington was established in 1913 under the direction of Elders Dempsey and Albert Koen, and J. R. McCarty. This church is still active.

ELDER F. D. KOEN

Frederick David Koen was born in 1815 and died in 1908. He joined the Primitive Baptist in 1836 and was ordained as an Elder in 1856. He moved to Hamilton County in Texas where he lived until his death. He had two sons who were Primitive Baptist ministers: Albert and Dempsey Koen.

ELDER RONALD GENE KOEN

Elder Ronald Koen was born in 1941. He grew up in San Angelo, Texas and attended Fairview Primitive Baptist Church where he was baptized and the age of fourteen. He was ordained to the ministry in March 1986 and served as pastor for two years. He joined Fireside Primitive Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas in 1988 and is presently serving as pastor.

ELDER DENIS RALPH KREIE



Denis R. Kreie was born June 1, 1945 to Florence and Ralph Kreie. He was ordained to the ministry March 21, 1992 by the Pilgrim's Rest Church of Duncan Oklahoma. He married Celia M. Newman April 25, 1970. Their children are: one son, Erron and two daughters, Kayce and Leslye.

Elder Kreie is pastor of the Pilgrim's Rest Church of Duncan Oklahoma.
