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## ELDER WACO MELVIN QUALLS



I was born Oct. 18, 1924, the second of four children of Waco and Lillie Hinson Qualls. I was truly taught right from wrong by my parents. I did not always do that which was right and felt condemned doing wrong and being condemned, I knew I was a sinner. Reading the Bible, I learned that sinners would be cast into the lake of fire, which I believed was hell. So, I thought I would start

doing good and God would save me on my good works. The more good works I did, the greater condemned I felt. Then I read where God sent his Son Jesus to save his people from their sins. Then I started praying and begging God for mercy and forgiveness. In July 1943, at age 18, I was drafted into the U.S Navy. Being married in March of the same year, I started praying that God would send me home. I then vowed to God if he would let me come home I would join the church with my wife. God granted my prayers, and in 11 days I was back home. But I soon forgot my vow to God and began working 7 days a week with the thought of building a big bank account. The more and the harder I worked, the more I got behind and the greater the burden of the vow became in my life. So I started going to church and the burden lifted somewhat. I had a desire to live with my brothers and sisters, so I asked the church for a home and was baptized by Elder Hollis Woods. Then in a few years about 15 members and myself lettered out from Goshen and constituted Brush Creek Church where I served as church clerk for a few years. In June of 1965, Brush Creek Church called for my ordination, and I was ordained September 22, and September 25 was called to pastor Brush Creek Church. The Elders in the presbytery were Willie B. Hinson, David Graves, Arlie Larimer, and J.H. Hinson. I have also served as pastor at different times to Goshen, Cedar Creek, Old Union, Hohenwald, and Linden Churches. During the years, I have preached in many churches in

Tennessee, Kentucky, and Michigan. I am now serving Goshen Church as co-pastor with my son-in-law, Elder Jerry McMinn. I have been married 56 years to Ina Webb Duncan Qualls. We have two sons, Ronnie and Eddie, and three daughters, Dannie Boyd, Vicky McMinn, and Barbara Jackson.