

Bro. Stevenson could read both the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts of the Old and New Testaments with almost as much ease as the English translations. He was largely self-taught and God truly blessed him with a keen ability to retain almost everything he read. He truly put these attributes to good work for the honor and glory of God.

He served as pastor of at least 14 different churches in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma, and many churches called on him for support in the fields of evangelism and teaching. Bro. Stevenson was a great thinker, teacher, and writer.

He was first elected as Recording Clerk of the ABA in 1950 at Lakeland, FL, which was the split of the BMAA. That was also the meeting at which he was elected to write the Adult quarterly. He served as recording secretary thru the 1955 session. He gave up both positions because of an extended illness in 1956.

Currently in print by the Baptist Sunday School Committee are **Stevenson's Commentary on Revelation, Twenty-Six Studies in I Corinthians, Twenty-Six Studies in Galatians and Ephesians**, and **Direct Answers to Difficult Questions**. He also wrote **The Work of the Holy Spirit** as his doctoral thesis and was encouraged by Dr. Ben M. Bogard to have it published.

At his death on May 10, 1981, he was buried beside his two sons in the Palmyra cemetery near Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church which was his last pastorate. Lyda Johnson Stevenson died on April 12, 1994, at age 84, and was buried beside her husband of 46 years.

Bro. Stevenson said, "The great doctrinal point I have tried to put over in recent years . . . is that the New Testament is not the discussion of a new plan of salvation, but it is rather the discussion of a new way of God's dealing with His special people in the world, this special people being the church."

---written by Jalynn Johnson, Glyna Patterson (daughters) and Fred S. Stevenson (son)

Lawton Durant Foreman (60)
Vice President, 1947-1949, 1962
President, 1950-1951

L. D. Foreman was born March 8, 1913 in Sebastian Co., AR. His parents were Jess Jonathan and Willie Ann (Matthews) Foreman.

He was saved in a "city wide" revival in Ft. Smith, conducted by the famous Mordecai F. Ham, better known as the "Old Kentucky Home" evangelist." Central Baptist Church in Ft. Smith was newly organized and was meeting in a tent. John W. Kesner was pastor and administered baptism on Foreman and Mary Opal Henry whom he later united in marriage.



To that union were born four daughters: Rebecca Curtis and

Priscilla Foreman of Little Rock, Lynn Buff of Arlington TX, and Betty Taylor of Downsville, LA; two granddaughters and three grandsons.

In 1934 the State Association of Missionary Baptist Churches held their messenger meeting in Magnolia. In this state meeting L. D. Foreman gave his heart, soul and hand to God, to be a minister of the gospel. Foreman didn't return to Ft. Smith with the messengers from Central but went to Little Rock in Dr. Guthrie's car. On Monday morning he enrolled in the Baptist Bible school, and for thirty-two years, was a part of that institution, as a student, teacher, and eventually as president. He saw it develop into the Missionary Baptist Seminary and Institute.

He became pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, sponsoring church of the Missionary Baptist Seminary, in January, 1947. He edited the **Missionary Baptist Searchlight**, the religious paper, and served as the instructor and presiding officer of the school until 1966. He led in the building program for what was one of the finest school structures in Little Rock at 3310 Asher Avenue.

Bro. Foreman began his pastoral work as pastor of four "part time" churches: Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church near Subiaco, First Baptist Church at Bloomer, Palestine at Greenwood and the Baptist Church in Taylor, Arkansas. After this he became pastor of Rehoboth near Ozark followed by a pastorate at Little Springs, Poughkeepsie, then First Baptist in Cave City, Mount View at Cave City, and Mt. Pleasant of Cabot. He was pastor of First Baptist in Sheridan from 1942-47 and became pastor of Antioch in Little Rock in 1947 where he continued until 1966.

After resigning from Antioch and the Seminary, Bro. Foreman took a world-tour. When he returned to Little Rock in October, 1966, he assumed the pastorate of the newly organized Woodhaven Baptist Church. He served as pastor until his death.

Bro. Foreman served as moderator of the Arkansas Association from 1949 until 1953 and president of the ABA in 1950 and 51.¹²² He served as a member of the Baptist Sunday School Committee for over 43 years.

¹²² From his tract, "What Happened at Lakeland?" Dr. C. N. Glover wrote of Bro. Foreman's conduct as moderator of the stormy meeting:

I have been attending associations all of my life, and I have presided over a good many associational sessions, some of which were a bit stormy, but nothing compared to the condition of which Dr. Foreman had to deal at Lakeland. I am persuaded that no man could have remained more calm and exercised better judgment and demonstrated a fairer spirit to all concerned than he did. (It is a marvel that he was able to keep the session from ending in bedlam.) He sought by every means at his command to be fair to every person addressing the chair, as long as respect and reason would warrant it. When statements alluding to divided spirit and attitude were made, Dr. Foreman plead with the brethren to make no reference to division on the basis that we are brethren.

Paul Goodwin and L.D. Capell wrote "A Tribute to Dr. L. D. Foreman." The first two paragraphs read,

"When Dr. Ben M. Bogard, due to failing health, resigned as President of the Missionary Baptist Seminary in 1946, there was only one man considered for the important place of leadership. That man stood tall among Missionary Baptists locally and nationally. He had clearly demonstrated his ability to teach and lead. A few years later (1950) he proved he could perform under pressure when he successfully presided over a stormy session of the messenger body assembly of the American Baptist Association at Lakeland, Florida. That man was Dr. L. D. Foreman.

"We who had the privilege of laboring with him during his tenure of 20 years as President of the Missionary Baptist Seminary were always aware of his heavy responsibilities. He pastored the sponsoring church, the beloved Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. He presided over the Missionary Baptist Seminary, taught classes, wrote books, and in many ways promoted the welfare of the institution. Enough? Yes, but he went further -- serving as editor of the **Missionary Baptist Searchlight**. During that twenty-year period he did the work of three men. Pastoring, teaching, building, editing, and a thousand other things were placed upon his broad shoulders. In those 20 years of triple service Dr. L. D. Foreman touched for good literally thousands of people. Only He who rewards His faithful servants knows the good accomplished by this man of God."

Bro. Foreman was used extensively in evangelistic meetings, from coast to coast and in Japan, Hawaii, Korea, Germany and Jordan. He traveled into some forty countries, including all the Bible lands.

Foreman was a prolific writer - nearly thirty years of newspapers and magazines - the **Searchlight** and **Missionary Baptist World**. Brother Foreman also wrote twenty-three books and pamphlets, some of which are used as texts in theological schools. **The Bible in Eight Ages** has been reprinted approximately 7 times. Others include **Ministerial Practicalities**, **A Study Course in the Gospel of John**, **Biblical Proofs on How to Identify the New Testament Church**, **Handbook on Ordinations**, and a series of eighteen booklets on the **Life of Christ**. He co-authored **Credenda**, **The Church That Jesus Built**, **The Golden Key to Bible Analysis**, and **What Baptists Believe**.

Along with Ernest and Alta Payne and Mrs. Foreman, he founded the Foreman-Payne Publishers, Inc. For ten years they printed and published the **Baptist World**, acclaimed by many as the finest Baptist publication ever.

With the help of Mrs. Alta Payne, Dr. Foreman edited the two-volume biography of Dr. Ben M. Bogard. A companion book to this set is a reprint of Bogard's work, **Pillars of Orthodoxy**, which he published in 1900.

Bro. Foreman was an avid sportsman. He played both football and basketball for the Ft. Smith Grizzlies while in High school. He loved the Razorbacks (both football and basketball) and was a hunter and fisherman.

He died in active service on August 24, 1984, on the island of Malaita [Solomon Islands in the South Pacific], as he was preparing to baptize several converts.

At his funeral, Dr. J. B. Powers spoke, "His wisdom was obvious in our deliberations. He was kind and yet decisive. For over sixteen years as Business Manager of the Baptist Sunday School Committee, I have appreciated his loving consideration and wise counsel. I shall, as will all who knew him, miss his presence. This tall, straight, striking figure; this kindly brother who was a blessing to us in the labor of the Lord."¹²³

Homer F. Gunn (61)
Vice President, 1948

EULOGY OF HOMER F. GUNN

Homer F. Gunn was a born-again believer, a God-called minister, a doctrinally sound Baptist, and a dedicated missionary. Those who knew him, in particular those whom he shepherded and labored with for the Lord in Illinois and surrounding states will long remember that he was one of the greatest interstate missionaries who ever served B.M.A. Baptists. He was one of seven interstate missionaries elected by the newly organized North American Baptist Association on May 26, 1950. His tenure as missionary from the spring of 1950 to the summer of 1973 was longer continuously than that of any other interstate missionary. He outlived most of the six others elected in 1950.

Like a modern-day Paul, Brother Gunn went to an area and a people where little or nothing was known about B.M.A. work. There he found a few people of God who were concerned and willing to help. With them he established missions which later were organized into churches. He always taught them to contribute back to interstate missions which had made it possible for him to come to them as a missionary, and he did not neglect to teach them Bible doctrines as believed by B.M.A. Baptists. Someone said he was like a mother hen watching over her chicks in the way he continued to assist the fledgling churches with their growth problems, building needs, and need for leadership at times when they were without a pastor.



One year Brother Gunn worked in six different cities in Illinois in establishing and assisting churches and missions, and at the same time

¹²³ J. B. Powers, *Missionary Baptist Searchlight*, Sept., 1984.