

an article that he had placed the Constitution on the floor and stomped it. He endured many poison arrows thrown at him during the division but continued to fight for his beliefs, He was a tall man in stature and he was a tall man for the Lord.<sup>114</sup>

He was elected as the Moderator after the organization of the Missionary Baptist Association of Texas. For thirteen consecutive years he was Secretary-Treasurer of missions in Texas. He also served as a missionary and evangelist of the same Association. He was elected President Emeritus of the Missionary Baptist Association of Texas.

He served as President of the American Baptist Association in 1955 and 1956. He served for many years as Chairman of the Missionary Committee of the American Baptist Association and was also chairman of the Baptist Sunday School Committee. The Texas Baptist Institute at Henderson, TX conferred the Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree upon him in 1963.



Brother Harper went to be with the Lord from his home in Gallatin, TX, July 8, 1965 at 3:15 a.m. He was 74 years of age, of which 43 had been spent in the Missionary Baptist ministry.

Bro. Britton closed the article by stating, "Those who knew him appreciated his labor for the Lord and would agree that after undergoing all his trials, Bro. Harper was probably one of the most able men among Texas Baptists."<sup>115</sup>

**Alfred Lee Patterson (47)**  
**Business Manager, 1944-1952**  
**Secretary-Treasurer of Missions, 1952-1973**

A. L. Patterson was born November 26, 1903. His dad, W. O. Patterson, pastored ABA churches in the Ennis and Corsicana, TX, area.

He graduated from Tyler Commercial College in 1924. Also in 1924 he surrendered to the ministry and preached his first sermon at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church near Gary, TX. In 1928 he graduated from Jacksonville College, Jacksonville, TX. He was licensed to preach by the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville.

He was married to Vera Jane Richardson, September 22, 1929. In 1935 he received the Master of Arts Degree from Baylor University. In




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<sup>114</sup> Donald L. Britton

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1956 he was awarded the Doctor of Divinity Degree by the Missionary Baptist Seminary, Little Rock.

He came to Texarkana at the call of the churches when the American Baptist Association convened in Knoxville, TN in 1938; he was employed by the messenger assembly as an auditor-accountant. His labors were well received and soon he was assistant business manager. He was elected Business Manager at the messenger assembly in Seminole, OK, in 1944. He remained in the office as business manager until 1952 when he was elected Secretary-Treasurer of missions. He served in this office until his retirement in 1973.

In 1958 Bro. Patterson wrote, "My work from that date [May 26, 1938] was that of accountant for the Baptist Sunday School Committee and assistant to the Business Manager. After six years in that capacity, I was elected Business Manager for the Baptist Sunday School Committee where I served for eight more years. The last six years have been spent as Secretary-Treasurer of interstate and foreign missions...."

During his tenure as Business Manager, the publications work experienced great growth. While he was in the missions office, financial support increased and missionaries were added.

He was a plainspoken man and a God-fearing, truth-loving preacher. He once said, "God does not call missionaries that God's people can't support. He intended men to realize God does not make mistakes, but that we do fail in our support, not giving as God blesses. On another occasion, he said, "One of the worst things that could happen to Missionary Baptists would be to have too much money." He was simply pointing out the possibility of having so much we would either mismanage it or not spend it to the glory of God. What a truth!

During his early years in Texarkana, he pastored several churches. He and Mrs. Patterson were charter members of Unity Baptist Church in Texarkana...Brother Patterson was a constant promoter of scriptural missions. He faithfully served the churches for over forty years. His diligent labor lingers on and will, no doubt, be an example until Jesus comes.<sup>116</sup>

### **Leander H. Owen (48)**

L. H. "Van" Owen was born September 8, 1915, in Palmyra, Lincoln County, AR, to John Robert and Mertie (Baker) Owen. He went to be with the Lord on January 5, 2000, at his home in Bryant, Saline County, AR.

He was saved, baptized, and became a member of Main Street Baptist Church (now Olive Branch Baptist Church) in Pine Bluff, AR, at the age of twelve. In November of 1934, he made known his call of God to the pastoral ministry and preached his first



<sup>116</sup> 1989 Minutes, pp. 17-18