

In May Bro. Mitchell completed four years as a missionary. In June he held a revival meeting with the Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas, the sponsoring church, Bro. Vernon Barr, pastor.

Paul Goodwin(78)
President, 1963-1964

Paul Goodwin was born March 1, 1915 at Driftwood (Lawrence Co.), AR. Paul's parents were Joseph Mark Goodwin (a farmer and merchant) and Vera Laferney Goodwin. Paul was the seventh of nine children: six boys and three girls. Paul's father was also a deacon in Pleasant Hill Baptist Church near Lynn, AR.

Paul was saved at the age of 17. He was baptized and became a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, often called "Dry Creek" Church. Paul began to feel the call to preach soon after he was saved. He explained, "I never made a formal surrender or announcement of my call. It simply seemed to be understood that I was to preach. My home church wanted to license me, but I wanted to prove myself first."



After completing high school, he first attended Arkansas Tech, at Russellville. "While at Tech I cut classes one day to attend the 1937 meeting of the American Baptist Association at Antioch Baptist Church in Little Rock. I did not meet Bro. Bogard at that meeting, but said in my heart, 'I want to go to that school'."

"After completing two years of college work, I transferred to Arkansas State at Jonesboro. I turned down what appeared to be a good opportunity to get a degree at Arkansas State, because, finally, I had reached the point that preaching the Word was my overwhelming desire. I wanted desperately to know the Word of God. I came to Little Rock in the fall of 1940 and enrolled in the Missionary Baptist Institute."

He pastored the following "part-time" churches from 1941-1944: Union, Crigler, Pangburn, Mt. Carmel and Arbor Grove.

He then pastored the following "full-time" churches:

First Baptist Church, Cave City, 1944-1946;

First Missionary Baptist Church, Mabelvale, 1946-1951;

Spring Creek Missionary Baptist Church, Benton, 1951-1952;

Shady Grove Baptist Church, Glendale, 1951-1953;

Unity Baptist Church (mission and church), Little Rock, 1953-66;

Springhill Missionary Baptist Church, Alexander, 1971-1977.

He was a student at the Missionary Baptist Seminary, Little Rock, from 1940-1945, then served as an Instructor from 1945 until 1985, and was President of the Seminary from 1966-1971.

It was under his leadership that the present Seminary property was purchased and plans made for relocating the campus.

In addition to his pastorates and work with the Seminary, Bro. Goodwin also participated in associational activities:

He was Moderator of the Pine Bluff Association in 1964 and 1965; Moderator of the State Association in 1962 and 1963; and President of the American Baptist Association in 1963 and 1964. He preached the Introductory Sermon at Oklahoma City in 1963, and the Mission Sermon at Albuquerque in 1971. He preached at the Pastors' and Missionaries' Conference three times.

He was married to Frieda Padgett of Strawberry, AR on December 24, 1941. To this union were born three children: Allen W. Goodwin, Chattanooga, TN married to Kim Jackson of Chattanooga, two children, Jackson and Laura Anne; David L. Goodwin, Montgomery, AL married to Pamela Smith of Marianna, FL and Ann B. Goodwin Wilkinson, LaCassas, TN married to Pastor H. L. Wilkinson, three children: John Graves, Sarah Ann, and Katherine Lee.

In his retirement, Bro. Goodwin supplied for pastors and churches when invited, preached on special occasions and taught as opportunities arose. He continued to write articles and booklets. His hobbies were gardening and fishing -- both kinds! (See Mt. 4:19.)

In their last years Paul and Frieda moved to Montgomery, AL, to be near his son, David, and his wife. Paul Goodwin went home to glory on February 9, 2004 at the age of 88.

Vernon E. Lierly (79) **President, 1965-1966**

Vernon Lierly was born June 6, 1923 in Fayetteville, AR. His father was Garland L. Lierly, known as a friend of pastors and missionaries. His mother was Velma Mae Thomas Lierly.

Vernon started to school in Calloway, NE and completed the third grade there. Then he continued in a one-room school in Salem Community, near Fayetteville through the eighth grade. After the eighth grade, he went to High School in Fayetteville, where he graduated in 1941.

Vernon's grandfather, O. L. Lierly, was a preacher. He preached in NW AR for 47 years. He was preaching in the service when Vernon was saved. O. L. Lierly held the meeting which led to the organization of Sycamore MBC. Vernon was saved and baptized by Sycamore Church when 12 years of age. This was also the church in which he announced his call, and by which he was ordained on June 29, 1947.

