

**Austin Toliver Powers (68)**  
**Secretary-Treasurer of Missions, 1948-1952**  
**President, 1957-1958**

Austin T. Powers was born June 26, 1896, at Comanche, TX. While he was still a boy the family moved to Oklahoma. Austin was saved at Mangum, August 6, 1918, three days after marrying Ida Lee Chapman. To that union six children were born: Mildred, J. B., Alice, Austilene, Opal and Coy.

He was licensed to preach by the Pleasant View Baptist Church near Mangum on the second Saturday in October 1919.

He entered the Missionary Baptist College, Sheridan, AR, in September, 1921, and received the Th. B. degree on June 1, 1925. He was awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree by Missionary Baptist Seminary and Institute, Little Rock, in 1931. He was awarded the Doctor of Bible Languages degree by Missionary Baptist Seminary and Institute, Little Rock, in 1948.



He was ordained by First Baptist [then Big Creek] Church, Sheridan, in December, 1923, and his first pastorate was Belfast Baptist near Sheridan (1923-1924). Other pastorates included:

Promise Land, Hamburg, AR, 1925-1936; Pauline, Monticello, AR, 1936-1939; Main Street (now Olive Street), Pine Bluff, AR, 1939-1943; Oaklawn, Hot Springs, AR, 1943-1948; Ebenezer, Henderson, TX, 1952-1956; East Side, Minden, LA, 1956-1962. His last pastorate was Westlawn Baptist Church in Texarkana, 1963-1964.

He pastored in Arkansas from 1923 to 1948, when he was elected Secretary-Treasurer of Missions for the American Baptist Association. He resigned this position in March, 1952, and accepted the pastorate of Ebenezer Church, Henderson, TX, and while there he taught in the Texas Baptist Institute.

Brother Powers was elected Dean of the Louisiana Missionary Baptist Institute, Minden in 1956, and also pastored Eastside church of Minden until 1962.

Brother Powers was a messenger to the organizational meeting of the American Baptist Association in 1924, and to every annual session thereafter until 1973, save one. He was honored as President of the American Baptist Association for two terms, 1957-1958.

Dr. Powers wrote the Junior Sunday School quarterly from 1940 until 1968. He co-authored the "Oral History" of the ABA, which was published in 1979.

Bro. Powers died in Texarkana on Oct. 14, 1975, and was buried in East Memorial Gardens.