

When the split occurred in 1950, Dr. Cobb chose to align with the North American Baptist Association. Because Dr. Ben M. Bogard had led in the removal of Dr. C. A. Gilbert as Business Manager in 1938, many brethren began taking sides as early as 1937. When the Pine Bluff Association met in 1937, Antioch Baptist Church, pastored by Dr. Ben M. Bogard, petitioned the Association for membership. Dr. J. E. Cobb presented a resolution passed by the Spring Creek Church, of which he was pastor at the time, which opposed seating the messengers from Antioch. The tie vote was broken by the Moderator, who ruled in favor of the petition.

However, that rift did not prevent Dr. Bogard and many who aligned with him in electing Dr. Cobb to succeed Dr. Gilbert as Business Manager. The following account was given in *History of the American Baptist Association*:

“When consideration was given to Bro. Cobb’s election to the combined position, opposition was voiced because of the previous declaration opposing fellowship with Dr. Bogard and Antioch Church. In the discussion, Bro. Bogard “called Brother Cobb to the platform and before the whole congregation demanded that this point be settled.” After Bro. Cobb “declared that he had been misunderstood, that he never meant to declare non-fellowship for anybody,” then Bro. Bogard asked, “The thing I am asking of you to say if you are in fellowship with me and the Antioch Church now? If so, give me your hand before this great congregation and that will settle it.”

“The situation was dramatic, the tension was terrible, meanwhile Bogard had his hand extended and in a moment Brother Cobb reached out his hand and the two brethren shook hands and pledged themselves to work together in peace and full fellowship. The messengers broke out in loud applause.”

Bro. Bogard continued, “We then made it unanimous for Cobb to do the double work of secretary-treasurer of missions and business manager of the Sunday School literature.”¹⁰²

Ernest Koran Begley (43)

E. K. Begley was born between Cave Springs and Lowell, AR, in 1907, and passed away in a nursing home in North Dakota on December 31, 1994.

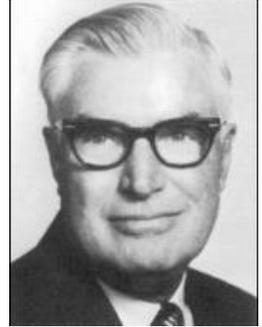
Bro. Begley was saved at the age of 17 and baptized by the Zion Baptist Church near Lowell. He surrendered to preach the first Sunday of November, 1935, and was later ordained by his home church. He attended Columbia Baptist Bible Institute, Magnolia, AR, and Missionary,

¹⁰² Robert Ashcraft, *History of the American Baptist Association*, p. 306, and quoting Dr. Ben M. Bogard, *The Life and Works of Ben M. Bogard*, Foreman and Payne, II, pp. 290-291.

Baptist Seminary, Little Rock, AR, and pastored churches in Arkansas and Louisiana before going to the Hawaiian Islands as a missionary where he ministered for nearly 20 years, being instrumental in the organization of eight churches. The Begleys came to San Diego, CA, and Brother Begley ministered devotedly and faithfully among the brethren of the San Diego First Missionary Baptist Church for nearly 30 years.

ABA work in Hawaii began with Ernest Koran Begley and his family. The following article summarized the life and ministry of E. K. Begley:

He was pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in Minden, La., when, in 1939, he felt strongly impressed to go to the Hawaiian Islands as a missionary. After making careful plans and doing a good job of promoting the needs of the Hawaiian field, Brother E. K. Begley was recommended as a missionary to Hawaii by the messengers in 1939.



103 He moved almost immediately to Honolulu, sponsored by the church at Minden and endorsed by the churches of the American Baptist Association. Soon after moving to Hawaii he organized the First Missionary Baptist Church of Honolulu; he also began a radio ministry over Honolulu station KGMB which lasted for over ten years.

Brother Begley's first written report stated,

"...this report covering work done since my arrival in Honolulu on December 7, 1939.

...we organized the church known as the First Baptist Church of Christ, New Year's Eve, 1939, with five charter members - namely, Elder E.R. Goodwin and his daughter Audrey Goodwin, Elder and Mrs. E.K. Begley and Miss Emily Sanders. We adopted the Articles of Faith used by the churches of the American Baptist Association, and the Church Covenant held by old time Missionary Baptists. Thus ended the year 1939 with an old time Missionary Baptist Church in the Hawaiian Islands, which is located at 241 Oahu Avenue, Honolulu, T.H. Since the church was organized four additional members have been received.... Our average attendance at the present time is about twenty at regular services. We have started a Sunday School, and will start using Baptist Sunday School literature April 1st."¹⁰⁴

103 **Missionary Baptist Searchlight**, March 25, 1939, p. 4 and December 25, 1939, p. 5. Also, John W. Duggar and Walter Whitley were recommended as missionaries to Brazil at the 1939 meeting.

104 E. K. Begley, "Missionary Begley Writes," **Missionary Baptist Searchlight**, March 25, 1940, p. ?

By the end of 1940 Bro. J. D. Costa was working with Bro. Begley and a radio program had been started. By 1941 two dear lady missionaries, Miss Leola Woodly and Miss Nellie Mae Williams, who had been shut out of China were now working with Bro. Begley and the Honolulu Church. They were going from door-to-door and teaching Bible classes. The church continued to grow. By the end of 1941 the church had grown to over 70 members. In the latter part of 1942, Bro. Begley reported,

Brother J.D. Costa is preparing to go to one of the other islands to begin a work. THE CHURCH IS SUPPORTING HIM FULL TIME AND HE IS OUR MISSIONARY... Sisters Nelly May Williams and Leola Woodley are doing a great work. They are teaching several classes of school children. I am sure more than one hundred in all. They also have classes at a hospital and a home for unruly boys and girls. Mrs. Begley and Bro. Costa are helping with classes on Friday at our church building. There are about sixty-five children that attend these classes.¹⁰⁵

He was in the middle of his Sunday morning radio broadcast on December 7, 1941 when the Japanese planes started their bombing raid on Pearl Harbor which launched World War II between Japan and the United States. He served the mission field in Hawaii from 1939 to 1959 (with two years out to attend the Missionary Baptist Seminary in Little Rock). All of the present churches in Hawaii are either directly or indirectly a result of his ministry in the islands. Altogether he has been responsible for the organization of eight churches and has built (personally) four church buildings. The eight churches he organized are all still actively working for the Lord.

Throughout 1943 the work continued to prosper. Bro. J. D. Costa was working in Hilo as a Missionary from Honolulu. The First Missionary Baptist Church was organized in Hilo, Hawaii on April 16, 1943, with four charter members and after a baptizing, they had nine members.

In his September, 1944, report Bro. Begley stated 27 were saved in one month. They started a Bible School with 15 enrolled, 4 of them preachers. All through 1945 the work blossomed. The staff of workers was increasing and Brother Begley felt the need to return to the states and receive more schooling. He enrolled in the Missionary Baptist Seminary, Little Rock, in the fall of 1945 and continued studies through the spring of 1947. In August, 1945, he reported:

Professions of faith witnessed in our regular services, in the homes by personal workers, in the Bible classes and on the various military installations by various members of our church - 100; Baptisms - 43; Additions by letter and statement - 21; Excluded - 10.

The church has at least four ordained ministers in her membership, excluding Bro. Redmond and myself; at least five who have defi-

¹⁰⁵E. K. Begley, "Fine Letter--Great Work--Good Success," *Missionary Baptist Searchlight*, Jan. 10, 1943, p. ?

nately been called to preach; and at least six others who feel that the Lord has a special work for them and have surrendered to do His will.

During Brother Begley's absence, the work continued to prosper. Brother H. C. Redmond had returned as a Missionary for the ABA. In his report recorded in the 1946 minute he gave detailed information:

There have been many changes in the personnel of the church here, and most of our members of the military have returned to the mainland, since the War was over... We feel that after the readjustment period is over there will be a steady growth in the churches here. Shortly before Elder E.K. Begley left for the mainland, on June 30, 1946 the 12th Avenue Missionary Baptist Church was organized with ten members from the First Missionary Baptist church... This Church is meeting in our home...which the First Missionary Baptist Church purchased last February,.. On Sept. 30, 1945, The Hawaiian Missionary Baptist Association was organized with three churches; The First Missionary Baptist Church, 215 Ohua Ave.; The 12th Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, 824 12th Ave., of Honolulu, and The First Missionary Baptist Church, 15 Kapolani Ave., Hilo Hawaii.

The work in the public schools here is really an associational work for teachers and workers are used from both churches. I want to give a paragraph out of Sister Nelly May Williams' report; she is in charge of this work: "It might interest you to know that there are over 60 children in eight classes taught by three teachers. There are approximately 224 children in the 15 classes which makes a full weeks schedule. In all there are about 285 children in 23 weekly classes." We are teaching in 23 out of a possible 40 schools....Some of these children have made professions of faith, some are in Sunday Schools, and some are members of our church.

The Bible School of the First Church is progressing nicely, having from 8 to 15 each school night, which is Monday, Tuesday, and Friday.

In 1947 the following ABA missionaries were working in Hawaii: J. D. Costa, E. K. Begley, Bob Priddy and H. C. Redmond. Bro. Priddy worked for a year and then went to Australia. Bro. Begley arrived back from Little Rock, where he had been attending the Missionary Baptist Seminary, in July. He became Pastor of the Bethel Church, since they did not have a pastor. The First Church, where Bro. Redmond was pastor, had bought new property and the Bethel church was meeting in their old property. Sis. Harriet Williams, mother to Nelly Mae, had also moved to Hawaii and was working in the schools and doing visitation work. Bro. Priddy was also helping teach in the schools. They were permitted to hold 1-hour Bible classes in the elementary schools and at one time were doing this in over 20 schools. Nelly Mae had accepted the job of private secretary to Bro. T. L. Blalock and was making plans to go to China with him.

The three churches in the Hawaiian Fellowship met with the Hilo Church, July 13, 1948. The Bible School meeting in the Bethel Church had 20 students and several visitors. Bro. J. D. Polk moved to Hawaii and was helping in the music plus teaching in the school. Sis. Harriet Williams was back attending the Missionary Baptist Seminary for one year. In the 1949 minute of the ABA, Bro. Begley, Redmond, Costa and Sis. Harriet Williams all give brief reports of the year's work. All three churches continue to go forward. Sis. Williams has good success teaching her Bible Classes in the public schools.

Eld. John S. Gunn was endorsed by the Calvary church in Minden, LA to go to Hawaii and work with Bro. Begley. Four young men had surrendered to the ministry by the middle of 1950.

The First Baptist Church of Kailua was organized early in 1951. They called Bro. Alton Trawick as their pastor. There were twenty-nine enrolled in the Bible School with two more surrendering to the ministry, making a total of six new preachers.

In 1952 Bro. Begley again desired to return to Little Rock to attend the Missionary Baptist Seminary. Bro. Edward Byrd, who had served as a faculty of the Seminary since 1944, was released from his teaching position to take Bro. Begley's place for one year.

About this time there was some unrest among the Seminary students relative to associational involvement in doing mission work. Several men left the Seminary as missionaries without securing the usual associational endorsement. It was generally felt that these sentiments were generated by the influence of Bro. Begley and Bro. Byrd.

The 1952 minutes of the ABA show E. K. Begley, Edward Byrd, Mrs. Harriet Williams, Alton Trawick, J. S. Gunn and J. D. Polk as missionaries. Bro. Begley arrived back in Hawaii the middle of 1953, and on August 24, 1953, Elder G. F. Kelso and family arrived to help out in the work. He was called as co-pastor with Bro. Begley of Bethel church.

Bro. Begley Leaves Hawaii

The heartbreaker for the people in Hawaii was the move that Bro. Begley made in April of 1959, when he accepted the pastorate in San Diego, CA. Bro. Begley stated,

During the past year we have witnessed twenty professions of faith and baptized twenty. Our preacher's school has been well attended and all have made good progress.

It is my sincere belief and conviction that the Lord is leading me to San Diego, California, and I have already accepted the pastorate of a small church there. They do not have a building, and have been without a pastor long over a year. I am leaving Honolulu April 8.

We have seven churches in Hawaii and now all of them have pastors or missionary pastors. The First Church is sponsoring a mission project on the Island of Kauai.

As far as I know the people in Hawaii do not want me to leave: personally I had rather stay here than leave, but believe the Lord is leading in this move, even though I don't know why.

Bro. Doug Perdue summarized the importance of his ministry:

Many former servicemen will remember the Begleys best for their ministry to servicemen during World War II and in the years after the war. Literally hundreds attended the church services and stayed over for lunch at the Begley house. Sis. Begley remembers feeding sometimes a hundred a week and it was not uncommon to see a dozen or so soldiers, sailors or marines sleeping in their floor or in various parts of the church. One hundred and twenty-five men surrendered to preach under Bro. Begley's ministry. How many thousands were saved, baptized, and heard the gospel through his preaching is known only to the Lord in heaven.¹⁰⁶

When the Begley's came to San Diego, California, Brother Begley ministered devotedly and faithfully among the brethren of the San Diego First Missionary Baptist Church for nearly 30 years. It is reported that 125 men surrendered to preach under Brother Begley's ministry.

It may be stated best of Brother Begley (as we read in the following testimony of an Old Testament saint), "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and by it he being dead yet speaketh. " (Hebrews 1 1:4).

The following words are taken from a poetic remembrance of E. K. Begley as written by one of the charter members of the church he pastored in San Diego:

When I think of E. K., I think of a man - - A man among men today, and honorable pastor, guiding his flock aright. He was not a perfect man, but he was a blessed man. A politician? A seeker of fame? Not he! A Godly man, a loving man, patient and kind was he. A man of quiet and prayer, a preaching a teaching man, striving to live by the Word. He stood for the things that he believed, no matter how the winds would blow, for E. K. was a Christian, a real, honest to goodness Christian! A rarity in the world today... And if we saw any good in him - - A model we'd like to be - - It was just because Christ had reflected his life through the life of E. K., and E. K. is a good pattern for me....

Bro. Begley served as pastor of the San Diego church for twenty-six years. He passed away on January 30, 1995.¹⁰⁷

106 Douglas Perdue, "Hawaii" p. 2

107 Douglas Perdue, "Hawaii" p. 2