

Church, Wiggins, and Hickory Springs Church, Poplarville.

Following his death on July 6, 1971, the **1972 Yearbook** printed the picture and short summary of Bro. Rester's contribution to the work:

Bro. J. Alvin Rester served as Recording Secretary of the American Baptist Association longer than any other man (1936-1954). Bro. Rester was a native of Mississippi and except for his service as Business Manager of the Sunday School Committee spent his entire ministry in that state.

He was licensed to preach in 1930 and ordained in 1932. He also served as a member of the Baptist Sunday School Committee for about thirty years, and was an Emeritus member of that Committee until his death.

He was an interstate Missionary for a number of years. Following the division in 1950 he was instrumental in saving many Mississippi churches and helping restore them to stability.

He served as Business Manager of the Baptist Sunday School Committee from 1952 to 1956. At the 1956 meeting Brethren J. A. Rester and E. E. Swearingen were nominated as Business Manager. Bro. Swearingen received 433 votes and Bro. Rester 323 votes.

### **E. E. Swearingen (64)**

#### **Vice President, 1955**

#### **Business Manager, 1956-1968**

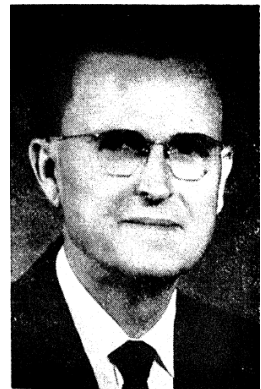
Bro. E. E. Swearington was born in the year 1904 in Edith Georgia. He was elected as a Vice-President in 1955. He was pastor in Mulberry, FL at the time. In 1956 Bro. E. E. Swearingen was elected as Business Manager, to succeed Bro. J. Alvan Rester.

He was pastor of several churches in Florida from 1932 to 1956 before moving to Texarkana, Texas. He served as Business Manager of the Baptist Sunday School Committee for the American Baptist Association for twelve years. During this time he pastored for six years in Oklahoma.

In 1959 he reported, "The renovation of the store together with the new fronts for the two buildings, the construction of the conference room, and numerous other changes and improvements to our property have caused much favorable comment by all who have seen it.

"We are now ready to begin remodeling the present offices in the store into a general office and building a balcony that will house the Business Manager's and Bookkeeper's offices."

At the 1968 meeting, Bro. Swearingen announced that he did not desire to be re-elected. Bro. Swearingen had favored that the business



stay at 214 E. Broad Street, rather than relocate and build the present facilities on State Line Avenue.

He moved to Minden, Louisiana, in 1969, where he served as the Business Manager and as a professor of history and general studies at the Louisiana Missionary Baptist Institute and Seminary. He moved to St. Petersburg in 1975 and was a member of the 30th Avenue Baptist Church in St. Petersburg, Florida, where he taught the Adult Sunday School class for many years.

Dr. E. E. Swearingen died December 29, 1998, at the age of 94, at Mariner Health-Care of Pinellas Point in St. Petersburg, Florida. Survivors include his wife of seventy years, Agnes, a son, James E., Mobile, Alabama; a grandson, James E. Jr., Minnesota; a sister, Pauline Youmans, St. Petersburg.<sup>124</sup>

Dr. C. N. Glover paid tribute to Bro. Swearingen as published in the 1999 Yearbook:

“Much, much credit is due Bro. Swearingen for the devotion and labor that he gave to the task assigned him by the Messenger Assembly from 1955 to 1968. It took intelligence, know-how, planning, labor and evidently, much praying, for him to be able to secure and maintain the cooperation of the churches throughout the nation, in keeping their orders coming in and the supplies going out.”<sup>125</sup>

### **Gerald F. (Jerry) Crumley (65)**

**Associate Editor, 1955-1956**

**Vice President 1994-1995, 1997-1998**

Gerald F. (Jerry) Crumley was born February 24, 1927 in Snyder, TX. Bro. Crumley was saved at the age of 7. He was married at age 19 to Jean Moran on June 26, 1946. She was born December 18, 1927 at Roseboro, AR. She grew up in Little Rock and was a member of Antioch Church.

Bro. Crumley surrendered to the ministry in 1943, at the age of 16. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1946 by the Antioch Baptist Church of Little Rock, AR. He graduated from the Missionary Baptist Seminary in Little Rock, AR in 1950, with a Doctorate in Bible Languages.

He served as pastor of churches in Arkansas, Texas, Kentucky and Mississippi: Pilgrim Rest Baptist, Little Rock for 18 months beginning late in 1946, Austin Chapel, DeKalb, TX, 1949-1953; White Oak Baptist, Nancy, KY, 1953-1955. During that same time period he was Dean of Eastern Baptist Institute, Somerset, KY.



<sup>124</sup> 1999 Yearbook, American Baptist Association, p. 16.

<sup>125</sup> Glover and Powers, pp. 184-185.