

Albert Garner (100)
President, 1974-1975

Bro. Albert Garner was born in a log cabin in Cross County, AR on August 1, 1920, the son of W. J. and Edith Garner. He surrendered to preach on April 7, 1940, and was ordained in October of 1940 giving him a ministry of over 67 years.

He graduated from Wynne High School in June, 1941; Harding College, Searcy, AR with a B. A. Degree in 1945; the Missionary Baptist Seminary, Little Rock, with a Doctorate in Bible Languages degree, 1946; and Baylor University, Waco, TX, with a Master of Arts degree in 1947.

He was married to Janice Hilger of Pangburn, AR December 16, 1942. To this union was born one son, George Glendon Garner, on November 24, 1945. George surrendered to preach then later served in the U. S. Army as a Chaplain, retiring in 1996 as a Lt. Colonel.



Bro. Albert Garner served his Lord as a preacher, pastor, missionary, educator, writer, editor and debater. He served as an Interstate Missionary in 1946. He organized six churches during his ministry--four in Arkansas and two in Florida. He pastored for 25 years in Arkansas, Texas, and Florida. He headed the Department of Speech in Jacksonville College, Jacksonville, TX, in 1947-48. He was co-founder of Texas Baptist Institute and Seminary, Henderson, TX, where he served as Dean and Instructor for nine years from 1948-57.

In May, 1957 Bro. Garner became President of Florida Baptist Institute, College and Seminary (1957-1970). He remained as President for thirteen years, until 1970, and continued to serve as Chancellor, Chairman of the Board and Trustee for twenty-six years, until May, 1983. He was editor of the **Baptist Anchor** periodical for twenty years, 1957-1977.

Dr. Garner served as Recording Secretary of the BMA of Texas for one year, Recording Secretary of the Missionary Baptist Association of Texas for seven years, writer of Sunday School and BTC literature of the ABA for eleven years, 1947-57; Bro. Garner served as President of the American Baptist Association in 1974 and 1975. He also served many years as the Parliamentarian of the American Baptist Association and was later honored with the title of Parliamentarian Emeritus. He led in founding the Chaplaincy Commission of the American Baptist Association and served on the commission as chairman for nine years.

He wrote numerous textbooks for churches and Bible schools. The two better known are **Bible Analysis** and **Defense of the Faith or Christian Doctrine**.

In 1970 Dr. Garner secured a Charter for and proceeded to fund the Blessed Hope Foundation, for the publication and distribution of the

Blessed Hope Commentary and other books. He is well known for his work in the publication of the 23 volume *Garner-Howes Baptist Commentary*, the only Independent Landmark Baptist Commentary, verse-by-verse on the whole Bible, of the 20th Century in the USA. He was assisted by Dr. Jerry Crumley, James W. Griffith, Johnny Howes, and Eugene Garner.

He led in founding the American Baptist Senior Citizen Foundation in Lakeland, FL in 1966. He served as President and Administrator of the 102 unit apartment complex for 17 years, 1967-1984.

Bro. Garner was called home by His Lord on August 23, 2007, in Lakeland, FL, at the age of eighty-seven, leaving behind Janice, his wife of sixty-four years, his son, George, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. (2008 Yearbook)

John E. Owen (101)

Vice President, 1973, 1985-2003, 2006

John E. Owen was born September 20, 1937, in Duncan, OK, to L. H. and Okneta Owen. After graduation from Texas High School, Texarkana, Bro. Owen enrolled in Texas Tech University. He graduated with a B. S. degree in Civil Engineering in 1960. He later received the Th. M. in 1969 and Th. D. Degree in 1972 from the Missionary Baptist Seminary, Little Rock.

Bro. Owen married Jean Milam of Witt Springs, AR in April of 1961. Their children are: Karla (Owen) Higgins and husband, Tim of Bryant, AR; Dr. Ed Owen and wife, Delania of Jonesboro, AR. They were blessed with grandchildren: Shelby and Regan Higgins and Ashton and Isabella Owen.



Dr. Owen did his undergraduate work at Arkansas Tech University and completed the Masters and Ph. D. Degrees at the University of Illinois. He is presently on the faculty of Arkansas State University as Associate Professor of Music.

Bro. Owen surrendered to the pastoral ministry in May of 1960 at the Lakeview Missionary Baptist Church in Lubbock, TX. Brother E. Lowe Stone was the pastor. He was ordained by the Unity Baptist Church of Little Rock in 1962. Dr. Paul Goodwin was the pastor.

Bro. Owen pastored Elgin Baptist Church in Tuckerman (Aug. 1962-Oct. 1963); Spring Hill Baptist Church, Bryant, (May 1964-Sept. 1969); Meadow View Baptist Church in Jones Mill (Sept. 1969-Oct. 1970); Oakhurst Baptist Church, Little Rock (Oct. 1970-May, 1971); First Baptist Church, Bryant (Dec. 1975-1997); and Emmanuel Baptist