

## First Missionary

Salinas, CA  
(Monterey County)

36° 44.171' N    121° 38.032' W  
Organized    August 11, 1935  
First pastor    R. Y. Blalock  
Current pastor    Jack Dennis

This grand old church was organized under the work of R. Y. Blalock, August 11, 1935. Brother Blalock was a member of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Caldwell, Idaho. He had the endorsement of the Eastern Baptist Association of California and Oregon, the Middle Oregon Association and the old California Association. There were 18 charter members, all with letters from various Baptist churches.

This small group of Baptists were pioneers in the California Landmark work with almost all churches in central and northern California tracing their origin through them. Within the year and in the midst of the Great Depression they had purchased property and met in it for twenty years. They then bought property at Towt and Garner and built a nice church plant. At the present time they are meeting in rented facilities.

The church represented in the Old State Association until 1952, and then chose to represent in the Cooperative Association. They have been served by a long list of pastors starting with R. Y. Blalock, August 1935 to July 1937; John Cooper, January 1937 to April 1939; Clarence Hardin, April 1939 to November 1940; M. B. Hubbard, December 1940 to March 1942; Clarence Hardin second time, April 1942 to June 1943; Lee Dowdle, July 1943 to June 1945; Manning J. Duncan, July 1945 to May 1946;



Ernest E. Crawford, May 1946 to January 1948; Lee Dowdle second time, March 1948 to November 1948; Charles Crouch, November 1948 to November 1950; D. O. Ross, November 1950 to November 1953; Charles Jamison, December 1953 to June 1955; Loyd M. Branch, October 1955 to August 1959; L. T. Fiser, August 1959 to August 1960; C. C. Middleton, January 1961 to October 1963; Loyd M. Branch second time, December 1963 to September 1964; Calvin Isenhower, October 1964 to June 1969; Bill Crawford, July 1969 to April 1970; L. T. Fiser second time, May 1970 to May 1974; Lonnie Wiggins, 1975 to 1981; Raymond Bynum, 1981 to 1994; Jack Counts Jr., 1996-1999; Jack Dennis, 2000 to present (2009).

Adapted from Calhac Book, Part II, Twentieth Century, Chapter 11  
~ **Twentieth Century California Churches** [Anaheim](#) ~ [Carmichael](#)