

## C. C. Winters, 1924-1926

Curtis Courtland Winters was born June 15, 1863, near Murray, Kentucky, the son of Dr. Solomon D. and Catherine Winters.

He was converted at the age of sixteen, and was baptized into the fellowship of the Ledbetter Baptist Church, on October 9, 1879, by Elder J. A. Spencer. The Ledbetter Church licensed him to preach on October 1, 1887. He was ordained to the Gospel Ministry by the First Baptist Church of Murray, KY on August 17, 1890. That year he graduated from the State Teachers Institute in his home town and soon enrolled in Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville. Thereafter, he combined his teaching and ministerial careers with much success in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Texas.

On December 18, 1887 he married Annie Elizabeth Roberts of Murray, Kentucky. To that union six children were born. One son gave his life defending his country in World War. I. During his early ministry Dr. Winters taught school and served country churches in Kentucky and Tennessee. In the fall of 1893 he became a missionary for the Dick River Association in Middle Tennessee. In 1899 he accepted the pastorate of Central Baptist Church, Florence, Alabama. He served other churches in Alabama before going to the First Baptist Church in Venus, Texas in 1904.

He remained in Texas for three years, then accepted the pastorate of the First Baptist Church at Magnolia, Arkansas. A year later he moved a few miles to McNeil to pastor the Baptist Church. He purchased a farm a short distance from that town in 1915, where he passed the remainder of his life.

During the next few years his pastorates included some of the leading Missionary Baptist Churches in south Arkansas and north Louisiana, particularly in the Columbia Association.

In 1914, "with much fear and trembling", as he stated, he accepted the office of Missionary Treasurer for the General Association, predecessor of the American Baptist Association. During his seven year tenure he satisfied the Association's deficit of some \$5,000. When he left this office, the mission work was debt free.

In 1916 he was first elected as Moderator of the State Association of Missionary Baptist Churches of Arkansas. Altogether, he served for seventeen years.

In 1923 he was elected Moderator of the General Association. He was chairman of the "Unification Committee" and was in the Chair in 1924, when the American Baptist Association was officially organized. He was President of the 1925 meeting at Dallas, Texas. When Dr. H. B. Pender was elected as President at the next session [1927-no meeting in 1926], Dr. Winters was unanimously elected as First Vice-President.

He served as a member of the Baptist Sunday School Committee from 1915 until 1950, and was chairman for nineteen years. Prior to that time, he was President of the Baptist Publishing Company at Little Rock for five years. He served three years as Moderator of the Fayetteville Baptist Association and eight years as Moderator of the Columbia Baptist Association. Dr. Winter's service included several terms as Trustee of the Missionary Baptist College at Sheridan, Arkansas. This school conferred on him an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree on May 24, 1929. He was one of the founders of the Columbia Baptist Bible School at Magnolia in 1935, where he served as Vice-President and Dean. After the loss of his faithful wife, he gave most of his time to teaching in the Columbia Baptist Bible School.

When the 1950 division occurred, Dr. Winters aligned with those who organized what is now known as the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

Dr. Winters became ill in the Spring of 1951, and never regained his health. He died at his home at McNeil on June 3, 1952. He was buried in the Shiloh Cemetery, north of Waldo in the Lamartine Community. The cemetery is located behind the historic Shiloh Baptist Church which was organized in 1855. The gravesite is on the top of the hill at the east edge of the cemetery. ([N33°23.480'W93°16.270'](#))

Mrs. Edwin Peters paid tribute, "He had a busy and fruitful life." Dr. D. N. Jackson wrote, "He was on the greatest theologians in Baptist ranks, and without doubt was one of the cleanest characters ever to wear the name Baptist. He was honored by being elected to almost every position in Association Baptist ranks."

--compiled from Research Report #79-015 done by Russell P. Baker, June 13, 1979, **Echoes from Beautiful Feet** by Mrs. Edwin Peters, information supplied by Mrs. Martha Henry, Waldo, AR, and associational records.

<http://www.mytopo.com/maps.cfm?mtlat=33.3913&mtlon=-93.2712&z=15>



(photo Michael D Thompson 9/9/2008)

Eld. C. C. Winters D. D.  
BORN MURRAY, KY JUNE 15, 1863  
ORDAINED AUG. 17, 1890  
BY FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MURRAY, KY  
DIED JUNE 3, 1952

Mrs. ANNIE E (ROBERTS) WINTERS  
WIFE OF C. C. WINTERS D.D.  
BORN MURRAY, KY JULY 4, 1863  
DIED JUNE 16, 1937