

## **Lewis Samuel Ballard, 1931**

L. S. Ballard was born in Cabool, Missouri, October 23, 1881. His father was Francis Marion Ballard, born in Tennessee, a veteran of the Civil War. He came to Missouri as a youth, and married Susan Waggoner, a native of Illinois. The family later moved to Arkansas.

Bro. Ballard was raised in a Christian home and was saved at an early age. At the age of eighteen he felt the call to preach. His first preaching was to Baptist churches in the small northern Arkansas communities of Wild Cherry, Calico Rock, and Melbourne.

Bro. Ballard was ordained to the ministry in 1900. He attended the Baptist College at Mountain Home, Ark. He became a good scholar, with command of the original Greek and Hebrew, a correct grammarian, outstanding orator, a debater who did indeed rightly divide the Word. He eventually earned the B. A. degree from the University of Arkansas, and in 1929 was also honored with a doctorate.

His Arkansas pastorates included First Baptist, Mountain Home; First Baptist, Springdale; Central Baptist, Little Rock; First Baptist, Magnolia, and a church at Gurdon.

He was pastor in Magnolia in 1914 and 1915. He preached the Annual Sermon at General Association in 1915, from I Cor. 15:3. He served on the Committee on Order of Business. He was re-elected clerk of the General Association.

He moved to Texas in 1916 and pastored the Baptist churches at Goree and Bomarton in the north central counties of Knox and Baylor. In 1917 he moved to Dallas and organized the South Harwood Street Church, forerunner of the Missionary Baptist Church on Buckner Blvd. This was the church Dr. Vernon L. Barr pastored for 32 years, now the New Heights Baptist Church.

Next he pastored the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church of Richardson from 1917 to 1929. Then he went to First Baptist Church at Ennis. Then he returned to the Dallas area as pastor of First Baptist Church of Trinity Heights. Later he organized the Trinity Temple Baptist Church, which he pastored for eleven years.

In 1923 he was one of three editors of the Sunday School and Young People's work. The other editors were J.M. Newburn, Jacksonville, and D. N. Jackson. He was also on the Sunday School Committee.

At the organizational meeting of the ABA in 1924, Bro. Ballard was a messenger from Mt. Calvary Church in Richardson, TX. He served on the Nominating Committee, probably as chairman, and was elected to the Missionary Committee.

Bro. Ballard served as President of the American Baptist Association in 1931.

Bro. J. W. Griffith explained, "Bro. Ballard's strict contention for Bible precept and example led to his departure from the fellowship of the American Baptist Association insofar as actual participation is concerned. He felt that the Association deprived the churches of a part of their Christ

authorized independency under Him. For a number of years he found his closest fellowship with brethren of the Orthodox Baptist Fellowship, and for many years was lecturer and teacher in their Seminary at Ardmore, Okla."

He also authored several books, including **Election Made Plain, The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit, Baptist Church Perpetuity, Notes on the Book of Ezekiel, Ballard-Borden Debate,** and **Fuqua-Ballard Debate.**

Bro. Ballard retired to Hot Springs, Ark., where he died January 12, 1962. His funeral was conducted from Trinity Temple Church and his body laid to rest in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, in Dallas.i[vii]

According to C. N. Glover, Ballard married a sister of W. E. and J. E. Sherrill. Bro. Glover reported that Bro. Ballard left the associated work as a result of the Association's tabling a resolution that Ballard introduced at the 1942 ABA meeting in Bogalusa.

Bro. Glover wrote, "Bro. Ballard took this an insult... However, in the annals of the history of the American Baptist Association, the memory of this great man will linger on and on. He had conviction. He was a stickler for his convictions."ii[viii]

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i[vii]This biographical sketch was adapted from a biographical sketch prepared by J. W. Griffith, and printed in **The Baptist Monitor**, Dec. 1, 1978, p. 8.

ii[viii]Glover and Powers, pp. 59-60.