

YOKEFELLOW

Vol. 43, No. 6

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2016

FOREST HILL ELDERS

Anthony D. Callahan
Warren Davenport
Gregory D. Mangrum
Harold D. Mangrum
Keith B. McAlister

DIRECTOR: MEMPHIS
SCHOOL OF PREACHING
B. J. Clarke

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
Billy Bland

DEAN OF ACADEMICS
Keith A. Mosher, Sr.

ADMINISTRATIVE DEAN
Bobby Liddell

DEAN OF
COMMUNICATIONS
Daniel F. Cates

DEAN OF ADMISSIONS
Don Walker

ALUMNI LIAISON
Mike McDaniel

INSTRUCTORS
T. J. Clarke
Gary Colley
Barry Grider
Mike McDaniel

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Sherry Brown

LIBRARIAN
Annette Cates

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN
Jan Kuehn

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Joyce Phillips

ASSISTANT
SECRETARIES
Jackie Walker
Jinnie Thornton

www.msop.org
office@msop.org
Office (901) 751-2242
Library (901) 751-7378

B.J. CLARKE, EDITOR

A TRIBUTE TO GARLAND ELKINS

This is a special issue of the YokeFellow devoted to honoring our beloved brother Garland Elkins, who left his earthly house in Memphis, TN on October 28, 2016 to move into a “house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Cor. 5:1ff). This issue contains special remarks and remembrances from his immediate family members, and beautiful expressions from other co-workers, and brothers and sisters in Christ. His greatness cannot be captured in one issue, but this issue provides just a glimpse of this godly and gracious family man, Christian gentleman, and gospel preacher (Editor—BJC).

From CORINNE ELKINS AND FAMILY

Words fail me to adequately thank you for the many acts of kindness during this difficult time. Those of you who have loved, encouraged, provided the luncheon, prayed, sent cards, memorials, and did other Christian deeds was greatly appreciated. The flowers from the church and MSOP were beautiful. We are indebted to brethren Sutton, Grider, Clarke, Hixon and Smith for their words of love and comfort. I was never so rich as when I married him, and never so poor when I lost him. Our brightest star has gone out but the memory of him will go on forever.



From JAN ELKINS

When I was a little girl, if Daddy left the house, I screamed and cried until he came back and kissed me bye. Once he kissed me, I instantly stopped crying, much to the delight and laughter of the neighbors! Daddy often put the car in neutral so he could roll it down the hill and "escape"!!!

There have been lots of memories from then until now, but through it all I will remember that Daddy lived for FAITH, FAMILY and FRIENDS. He loved the Church, preaching, helping young preachers, laughing with friends, telling jokes, and he loved Mother, his children, and his grandchildren. He believed in the power of prayer, and prayed for us by name every time he prayed. We have lost a prayer warrior for our family, the church and the Memphis School of Preaching.

President George Bush, #41, was asked by a reporter, "What was the proudest moment of your career?" He answered, "That my children come home." Daddy's proudest moment was to preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified, but I am proud that Mother and Daddy's children still want to come home, spend time with them and, if necessary, offer assistance. It says all that you need to know about their love for us, and our love for them. In some families, one child carries the responsibilities of taking care of their parents, but in our family, we all were privileged to work together, and rotate the visits, because we all wanted to come home. It wasn't always easy; in fact, Denise spent her entire summer here and Connie often dropped what she was doing to go home. There were some sacrifices, but we were proud and honored to be able to give back to the two people who had given us so much.

Our faith has grown during this process because through God's Providence, with almost every potential health crisis, a daughter was either on her way, planning to come, or already home. Whether it was Mother's heart attacks in 2015, her accident this year, Daddy's rehab, Lymphoma diagnosis or radiation, we were all here....just like our parents taught us.

A few weeks ago Daddy left for the last time. He won't come back, kiss me and wipe my tears. To be honest, no one in our family would want him to come back. While we totally miss him, he is happy, and whole, and we can go to him where there will be no more tears, no pain, and no crying. I am thankful for his great legacy, and his influence in my life.

From CONNIE ELKINS MILES

A lot has been said, and rightfully so, about my dad, the Prayer Warrior, Preacher, Teacher and Bible Scholar but, at home he was "Dad"! Proudly, he often said that in his home, every day was "Father's Day."

When we girls were young, many evenings after dinner, Dad would leave to show a film strip about the Gospel. Mother put us to bed and we were supposed to be asleep but, when we heard him come through the front door we would beg for a story. When Papa reminisced about those days he expressed how tired he would be but never once refused his girls the joy of his Bible Storytelling.

Even at home Papa had a scripture for every moment or activity - (which I appreciated as an adult but, you can imagine, it was often a source of aggravation for me as a teenager). I frequently called Papa to ask for "book, chapter

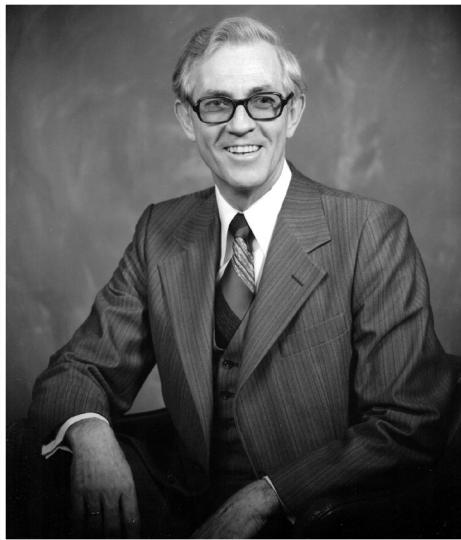
and verse" for a passage with a word or phrase that I was trying to recall. He would say, "Well, that was used in..." and quote me several passages until he came to the one I was trying to find. He would go on to explain what the writer was attempting to convey and how it applied to us today. One day Mama mailed me a Strong's Concordance. Quickly calling home, I questioned her as to the value of and therefore my use of the book when it was much faster to access my "Walking Concordance".

My favorite experience with Papa was in 1972, when he drove me from Newport News, Virginia back to school at Freed-Hardeman. Turning the dial of the radio often - trying to find music we could both enjoy, I landed on a station playing the song, "Ain't No Sunshine When She's Gone." "I believe that you will like this one," I remember saying. Dad listened to the whole song and when the song was over, quietly said, "that's how I feel about your mother." That was the first time I remember thinking deeply about my parents relationship and it was a pivotal moment in my perception and understanding of our family dynamics. To this day, if that song comes on the radio, I call home to tell mother that "her song" is playing. If Papa had any concern about passing from this life and going on to heaven - it was only that he would have loved to have arrived in heaven with Mama by his side.

We have lost a treasure and await with great anticipation our day of reuniting!

From DENISE ELKINS HEALY,

Before the birth of our first child, my husband and I decided that whether we had a son or daughter, the baby's middle name would be "Garland." Every day I'm grateful



for that decision. It was such fun to surprise Dad on May 21, 1990, when he asked, "What did you name her, honey?" Stephanie uses Stephanie Garland as her professional name as she reports the news and follows in her Aunt Jan's footsteps. Dad loved hearing Stephanie Garland introduced and seeing her on television, and every time I talked to him he asked if I had been able to watch Stephanie that day.

It is impossible to capsulize my thoughts of Dad and my gratitude for being his daughter. My memories of times together these past few months are front and center right now and exemplify Mom and Dad's essence. It is easy to be polite and kind when life is easy. When faced with uncertainty and pain, one's real character is exposed. My parents handled the many health challenges of the past few months the way they did everything else - with consummate grace and gratitude – and I learned even more about their strength, faith, love, and kindness.

Mom's accident occurred on June 8. In the following weeks, Dad was obviously weakened, but we didn't know if that was a result of stress, age, or illness. Many times last summer, Mom and Dad needed immediate attention at the same time. Their love for each other was sacrificial. Dad would say, "Go help your Mother," while Mom said, "Take care of your Dad first." In all of their sixty-seven years together, they put each other first.

Dad entered the hospital on July 2, 2016. After many tests and biopsies, he was diagnosed with classic non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Even when he was so dry that he needed ice chips every few words, he taught the Gospel constantly, even on his way into the operating room. The head nurse told us that in sixteen years of nursing, he had cared for many professed Christians and preachers who often abandoned their faith or cursed when in pain or under anesthesia, but Dad continually quoted scriptures or said "thank you." Mother was readmitted to the hospital on July 7, and their first time to see each other was a touching moment none of us will forget. Dad's nurse observed that he had already met the strength of the family; when he met Mom, he met the angel.

Dad moved to rehab on July 12. The ambulance attendants came to the hospital thinking it would be a quick transfer. Of course, Dad led us in prayer before leaving the hospital so he could teach the Gospel. I wish I had counted how many scriptures Dad quoted in his prayer as he taught the plan of salvation; it was easily over forty. He was always conscious that life has limited opportunities and we need to preach the Word to everyone we meet.

Mom joined Dad at rehab a week later, and they loved being able to see each other as they both regained their strength. The staff called them "Barbie and Ken" because they were the perfect couple. Dad and Mom were so grateful for each of the hundreds of cards they received and the prayers those cards represented. Opening the mail was

a highlight of the day and routinely took an hour or more as they reminisced about their history with each person and discussed the signers' kindnesses.

Dad truly fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. Our family is comforted knowing that he served a living God. Our parents always quoted Genesis 31:49 when they dropped us off for our school day or as we left on trips. It means more than ever today: "The Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another."

GARLAND AND CORINNE ELKINS SCHOLARSHIP

Our parents have been servants of the Lord Jesus Christ and in His ministry for over sixty-five years. Dad served as preacher and teacher, while Mother has exemplified encouragement and generosity. We often heard Dad say, "I preach, and I teach [young]men to preach, therefore I touch eternity." In honor of our parents, we establish the Garland and Corinne Elkins Scholarship for the Memphis School of Preaching.

To God Be The Glory!
Connie, Jan, Denise.

JOANNE BRADSHAW

The brotherhood has been dealt a mighty blow with Garland's passing, but heaven is immeasurably brighter for his presence there. If only my aching heart could find the words to write how bereft I am! I looked to him as a tower and a pillar. Only eternity can record the extent of the good he has done and the souls he has turned to Christ. He was a saint, a jewel, a treasure.

It has been my good fortune to have your friendship - one of the greatest blessings of my life.

Beautiful Corinne, always steadfast and loving, was right there beside him, promoting every good work. To her goes equal credit.

His benevolent smile, his wisdom, kindness, gentility, humility, generosity were a blessing to all. He was the essence of a Christian gentleman.

His defense of truth and his loyalty were amazing. He defended my Papa when hundreds of others rebelled. That has been 2/3 of a century but will not be forgotten.

When Papa died I was weepy of course. Mother consoled me with this: "We had him." Now you can say of your beloved: "We HAD him." In His love, Joanne

FROM DR. JEFF FRIZZELL

Dear Mrs. Elkins,

I was so sorry to hear about Bro. Elkins. Years before I met him, I had a deep respect for his faith, and his ability to minister. He was always such a strong defender of the faith, and yet he seemed like such a gentleman. Later when both

of you became patients of mine, I came to appreciate even more what a wonderful Christian gentleman he was. He never failed to ask about my family, and always showed genuine interest in every person who worked for me. He was truly an ambassador for Christ to my office, and everywhere he went.

I want you to know how much I have admired and appreciated your loving attention and care for him as his health failed him. Your attentiveness allowed him to continue his preaching, that he loved so much. Your example as a committed loving spouse has served as an inspiration to me and shows what a covenant in marriage is all about. I know this next year will be difficult for you as you adjust to life going forward, and I will be praying for God to bless you with special strength and a peace in your soul. In Christ, Jeff Frizzell

BILLY SMITH

When God created fathers, He made them proud and wise...
He put the light of truth and understanding in their eyes.

He formed them in His image,
hearts, faithful, smiles bright, their skin a shade of evening
as it passes into night.

He gave them sturdy arms for lifting children in the air
and knees that weren't afraid to bend in work or play or
prayer.

He planned them with a passion for the role of fatherhood...
and when the Lord had finished, He was sure that it was
good.

With gratitude for the values you teach, the encouragement
you give
the dreams you believe,
the legacy of love you pass along... With thankfulness for
the God-given blessing you are to this family...

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY 6/21/15

My beloved brother,

From the beginning you have been my model of
fatherhood, and you still are. Thank you for showing me the
way. I love you, Billy

E. CLAUDE GARDNER, November 8, 2016

I Remember Garland Elkins:

1. As a faithful Christian who died in a precious hope in a better world.
2. As an effective Gospel preacher in many places both in local ministry and as an evangelistic proclaimer. He was a pillar in the church.
3. I appreciate his good work of teaching and preparing young men to preach the Gospel.
4. He spread the Gospel by his writings and publications.
5. Few preachers have as much Bible knowledge as did he. He had a thorough grasp of God's will and he was

able to refute false doctrine that was advocated. He kept up with the brotherhood and was able to oppose error. He was fearless in opposing error but he was kind in refutation. He was ready always to give an answer. He did as the wise man admonished, "Buy the truth and sell it not."

6. I am thankful he was an alumnus of 1950. He was a supporter of Freed-Hardeman University. He encouraged others to help.
7. Backing him and enabling him to serve in full measure was his loving and faithful wife, Corinne. Also, he reared three lovely daughters - Connie, Jan, and Denise with a great family. He was a successful preacher and teacher.
8. He never quit or retired. He continued to the ripe, old age of 90. As a soldier of the cross, as the saying goes "he died with his boots on."
9. He is an example of Paul's victory statement of 2 Tim. 4:7-8 - Surely he will hear "well done" (Mat. 25:21).

GARLAND ELKINS

Gary Colley

Garland liked to tell how his mother and my wife Maggie's mother were sisters, but that "Maggie was better looking than me!" We enjoyed a close friendship for many years, traveled together, and enjoyed a monthly dinner in the homes of several different preachers and their families. The work of the church was always a topic at these dinners.

Few men have had their work recognized, far and wide, as much as Garland Elkins. His far reaching work has been admirable, and continues to live on in those he has taught and influenced! His interest in preaching, in lectureships, in debating, in teaching in the Memphis School of Preaching, in his work on Gospel Broadcasting Network and the Donahue TV Show, along with his meetings and local work, are all to be commended by all who love the Lord's church. Wherever he went to preach the Gospel, he also encouraged young men to attend the Memphis School of Preaching, and for the congregation to consider financial aid in supporting the school.

He was a friend to any and all who were friends of the Truth of God's Word. Many calls were answered when help was needed by brethren who were having difficult circumstances with which to deal. He was blessed by God with an outstanding ability to memorize the Scriptures, have good health, and to enjoy bounding energy for over ninety years.

His family now enjoys even more the Bible's promises given to the faithful Christian. May God bless his family with strength and faithfulness, and the great desire to go to Heaven.

A STEADFAST SOLDIER

Mike McDaniel

I believe that the first time I met Garland Elkins was at the 1983 Spiritual Sword lectureship. He was the co-director of the lectureship, and I was an eighteen-year old, first year student at the Memphis School of Preaching. The lectureship was on the book of Romans, and it was among the finest I have ever attended. Brother Elkins spoke on the power and universality of the gospel from Romans 1:16-17. His lesson was balanced, dealing with the facts of the Gospel, how the Gospel is God's saving power, convincing power, and convicting power. He also dealt with a number of false doctrines regarding Holy Spirit baptism, the direct operation of the Holy Spirit, the idea that the Gospel is to be distinguished from doctrine, and marriage, divorce, and remarriage errors. In many ways, that first lesson I heard him preach was indicative of his life as a Gospel preacher. Having begun his work for the Lord in May of 1949, his greatest concern was delivering the gospel, defending the Gospel, and demonstrating to others a life impacted by the Gospel message. He was a steadfast soldier of Christ (2 Tim. 2:3). He preached in more than thirty-two states as well as in Nazareth, England, Northern Ireland, Philippines, India, and Singapore.

In 1990, he would join the faculty of the Memphis School of Preaching and serve as the Dean of Public Relations. As co-editor of the Yokefellow, his superbly written articles would influence many and be duplicated in church bulletins around the country. Our association grew closer when he held a marvelous Gospel meeting in the 90's at Greenfield, TN where I labored. I loved to hear his Scriptural quotations and his personal anecdotes from many years of preaching which he utilized to illustrate his points.

During my term as president of the alumni association, I was able to see firsthand how invaluable he was in his promotion of the school and in fund-raising for the various building projects underway. Having joined the faculty in 2009, I attended the faculty meeting in August of that year and was invited for the first time to the Elkins' home for a meal. What a wonderful time we had. Brother Elkins would prompt brother Cates to tell humorous stories they both dearly loved. We laughed as heartily as we ate that day. Later we would be invited during the holidays along with other faculty and students to their Open House at staggered times throughout the day. Their home was truly a haven of hospitality.

Brother Elkins was willing to serve as a panelist for us on A Bible Answer on numerous occasions. In 2007, we did a series of programs dealing with instrumental music which we published in a book with the financial help of the church in Dexter, Missouri. Brother Elkins served as

a panelist along with Robert Taylor and Gary Colley. We received great response to these programs. Curtis Cates, Garland Elkins, Gary Colley served as panelists for four programs in November of 2011. On our YouTube channel, these programs are the most viewed of all having been seen by over a thousand people [www.abibleanswertv.com or search for abibleanswertv on YouTube]. Isn't it wonderful that by means of recorded archives, we have the opportunity to continue to hear and benefit from these spiritual giants with whom we have had the honor and pleasure to be associated?! Like Barnabas, Garland Elkins was a good man (Acts 11:22) who excelled in exhortation and encouragement (Acts 4:36). He often came to chapel when lesser men would have stayed in bed. His dedication to teaching in the final months of life will always be an inspiration to me. He was steadfast, unmoveable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58). He would please Him who had chosen him to be a soldier (2 Tim. 2:4). Garland Elkins would surely concur with the sentiments of the poet who wrote, "Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last. And when I am dying, how happy I'll be, If the lamp of my life has been burned out for Thee."

REFLECTIONS REGARDING A GREAT MAN - GARLAND ELKINS

Billy Bland

Anyone who loves the truth and knows our brother Garland Elkins, knows he was "a great man." The phrase "a great man" is not used lightly with regards to brother Elkins. It was my good privilege to know brother Elkins for many years and work beside him for twenty-four years as a teacher in the Memphis School of Preaching. He loved everything and everyone associated with the Memphis School of Preaching and worked tirelessly to help make it successful. Brother Garland loved the students and the students loved him. He had a profound effect on everyone in the Memphis School of Preaching. There are many factors that made brother Garland "a great man." Due to space, I can list only a few.

Humility. Brother Elkins was one of the most humble men I have ever known. This is why he was so great. He never sought to be first. He knew our Lord taught, "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Mat. 18:4), and "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted" (Mat. 23:12). When people would speak of brother Elkin's abilities and greatness, he would say, "the biggest room in my life is the room for improvement." We all knew if brother Elkins had room for improvement, we surely do as well.

Solider. Brother Elkins was a stalwart solider of the cross. Paul admonished Timothy, “Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier” (2 Tim. 2:1–4). Brother Garland exemplified these verses in his life. He stood boldly for the truth. Error would not pass in his presence. He earnestly contended for the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 3). He contended for the faith publically in debate and privately when needed. Yet he was not a hobby rider. He simply loved God and the truth.

Gospel Preacher. Brother Garland loved to “preach the Word” (2 Tim. 4:2). Whether he preached to hundreds or just a few, he was always well prepared and ready to preach. After turning ninety years of age, he longed for the opportunity to preach at the Stanton congregation where he labored for the past few years. Consequently, he was taken from rehab to the congregation where he again preached the Word.

Friend. Brother Elkins was a great friend. He was always ready with a smile and a handshake. Solomon said, “A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother” (Prov. 18:24). Brother Elkins certainly showed himself friendly to all. I am so thankful I was considered his friend and had the privilege of working beside him in the Memphis School of Preaching for the past twenty-four years.

My life is greatly enriched because it crossed paths with a great man, Garland Elkins.

GARLAND ELKINS, 1926-2016

Barry Grider

It has been said that sometimes a great man has to die before his greatness is ever perceived or recognized. Yet when one was in the presence of Garland Elkins, it was immediately recognizable that the qualities of greatness were deeply embedded in him. Though I knew the day would come, I’m not sure I was truly prepared for the passing of brother Elkins. He was an iconic figure to many of us who were his “preacher boys.” But as death passes upon all men, it passed upon brother Elkins in the early morning hours of Friday, October 28, 2016. His was a very calm and peaceful passing reminiscent of the way he lived his life. He was 90.

Though Richard and Emma Todd Elkins never knew the heights their youngest son would reach preaching the gospel of Christ, truly their distinctive character was passed on to him. Garland Elkins was born in a community that

bore his family name, nearby the county seat of Cannon County, Woodbury. He studied under some of the premiere preachers of the 1940’s. While a student at Freed-Hardeman he relished studying the Bible under men like N.B. Hardeman and W. Claude Hall.

For sixty-seven years he was married to a most delightful Christian woman, Corinne. Together they had three beautiful daughters, Connie, Jan, and Denise. Later the Elkins would be blessed with three grandchildren, Stephanie, Shane, and Olivia. The Elkins served congregations in Tennessee, Virginia, and Mississippi. In 1990, brother Elkins became a full time instructor in the Memphis School of Preaching and remained in such capacity until his death.

Garland Elkins was widely known as a great defender of the faith. He engaged in several debates with denominationalists and served as moderator for others. During the 1980s, he appeared on the Phil Donahue Show where he boldly defended the truth on the subject of marriage, divorce, and remarriage and the scriptural right of a congregation to withhold fellowship from a child of God living in an adulterous union.

Garland Elkins probably had the entire Bible memorized. The Word of God was in his heart and mind. For those of us who were his students, we understood that scripture memorization was a priority in his classes. As a boy, I recall brother Elkins holding a Gospel Meeting in my hometown of Bridgeport, Alabama. One evening the lights went out and the brethren began to search diligently for a flashlight. When one was found it was taken to brother Elkins who graciously replied, “That’s ok, I don’t use notes.” Most who heard him preach will remember that just a few minutes into a sermon brother Elkins would bring out his pocket New Testament. The purpose was not for him to read, but, rather, for his audience to know the basis of his authority was the Word of God.

Garland Elkins was a man of character. Though he would be the first to tell you that he, like all others, needed the grace and mercy of the Lord, I never heard anything remotely impure or unkind uttered from his lips. Even with the proponents of error or with disagreeable brethren, he conducted himself as a Christian. He loved life and if he had a thousand lives to give he would have given them all to his Lord.

Garland Elkins was a soul winner. Multitudes have heard him proclaim the simple gospel and multitudes have obeyed that gospel that he preached. A compilation of some of his sermons may be found in the book, “The Savior’s Way,” a series of messages he preached in Morrison, Tennessee. On numerous occasions I was with brother Elkins as he met people who crossed his path and he would give them a copy of his tract, “Come and See.” Such a meeting would always

close with this line, "If it agrees with the Bible accept it, if it doesn't reject it." To the very end of his life brother Elkins was concerned for the souls of men.

I often heard Garland Elkins say, "God's Hall of Fame is different from Man's Hall of Fame." Indeed, that is true. Brother Elkins, like Abel, "being dead yet speaketh" (Heb. 11:4). Like Abraham, he "looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:10). Like Moses, he "had respect unto the recompense of the reward" (Heb. 11:26). His funeral service was conducted at the Forest Hill church building, Monday, October 31. Billy Smith, B.J. Clarke, and this writer were privileged to speak. Stephen Sutton directed the beautiful congregational singing and Mike Hixson worded a most eloquent prayer at the close of the service. Brother Elkins mortal frame was laid to rest at Riverside Cemetery in Woodbury, TN the following day.

I loved Garland Elkins. He was my teacher, mentor, encourager, and friend. He performed the wedding ceremony for Celicia and me. He was a beloved father figure in my life. He stands as those saints recorded in Hebrews 11, "(of whom the world was not worthy)" (Heb. 11:38). I already miss him so much, but with him gone the hope of heaven is that much sweeter.

GARLAND ELKINS: "THE LIVING BIBLE"

Keith A. Mosher, Sr.

I first met brother Elkins under less than amicable conditions for me. He had a radio program airing in Memphis, Tennessee and I was then preaching in DeSoto county in northern Mississippi. Brother Elkins announced on his program that there was just one faithful congregation of the Lord's at that time in DeSoto county and he was not speaking of the one where I preached. So the elders, who served then, asked me to go and inform this great soldier of the cross of the difficulty. I was, to say the least, apprehensive about such a meeting! But, in his habitual way of graciousness, brother Elkins listened to my tale of woe and informed me that he had been unaware of the work we started and would certainly mention such on his next program and that wonderful brother also taught me then how politely and graciously to end a meeting when he said: "Would you be so kind as to lead us in a prayer, since you are leaving?" I loved him then and did, even more, as the years brought us together as faculty members at the Memphis School of Preaching.

Brother Elkins followed me as the preacher at the Southaven church of Christ in 1984 and served there for a little over two years at which time Curtis A. Cates, then Director of the Memphis School of Preaching, hired brother Elkins as a full-time faculty member and the Dean of Public Relations. A translation of the latter title would

be that Garland was the fundraiser. One day in the late 1980's, Garland asked me to come to the school building, then located at 4400 Knight Arnold Road in Memphis, for a special meeting. Again, I was apprehensive and more so when Curtis Cates and Ira Y. Rice, Jr. were there too. "What could be the purpose of such a gathering?" was one thought on my mind along with: "Maybe I am no longer needed, seeing there is such an illustrious faculty now!" But, those brethren were there to begin the fundraising for the new location for the church and school at 3950 Forest Hill Irene Road in Germantown, Tennessee. From that small beginning, eight buildings, including housing for the students, and twenty acres of land are paid for because of the magnificent fund-raising efforts of so many, but especially, of brother Elkins.

It was not unusual for Garland to bring in check after check, day after day, to help with the fund-raising and, on one occasion, he and I were asked to come to Dyer, Tennessee to receive a monetary gift from a wonderful sister in Christ. As we talked to her, she asked Garland and me if we would take cold cash. When Garland said that we would, she proceeded to her freezer, extracted a Tupperware container, and took out five, one-hundred dollar bills of cold cash and gave them to us. [Brother Elkins was so adept at raising funds that on one occasion he told me that they should put on his tombstone: "And the beggar died!"]

Brother Elkins legacy cannot be seen only in the magnificent property on which the congregation and school reside, but in the hundreds of his students who learned to memorize the Holy Bible under his tutelage. I think he probably knew the whole English Bible, but maybe also parts of two. He and his beautiful bride, Corinne, are as great an example of a Christian couple as has ever lived, and it was my privilege not only to know them, but also to work side by side with Garland for over thirty years. May our Father bless and keep her in the days ahead.

GARLAND ELKINS: A WISE COUNSELLOR

Bobby Liddell

1 Chronicles 27:32 records: "Also Jonathan David's uncle was a counsellor, a wise man, and a scribe." These characteristics of Jonathan, so briefly, but powerfully, noted, tell a lot about this man, of whom, otherwise, we know so little. Like Jonathan, brother Elkins, "was a counsellor, a wise man, and a scribe."

Consider him as a "scribe." This word, in practical application, indicates, primarily, one who was, a "man of letters," well versed in the law; that is the Law of God. Brother Elkins spent his life studying, learning, and memorizing the Law of God. In all the years of our close association, upon every occasion, when asked what the

Bible taught, on a point, or where that teaching was found, he replied accurately and immediately with the passage, and with its correct meaning. Generally, he would include additional information, helpful in completing the process of proper application of the Truth. Because of his acquired knowledge of God's Law, and his diligent efforts to follow God's will in his own life, he could teach and preach with understanding readily discernible by those who heard him.

Brother Elkins was a "wise man." Proverbs 9:10 teaches, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." Unlike some, whose "scholarship" lacks wisdom, he was a sage scholar, a man of understanding, skilled in the knowledge of the holy. True "wise men" are wise, and valued counsellors, only insomuch as their wisdom and counsel are consistent with God's wisdom, revealed in His Word. Brother Elkins' wisdom was of tremendous benefit to me, in the administration of my duties, serving as Director for six years, by my having the wonderful opportunity of listening to, learning from, and leaning upon the prudent judgment and insightful perception of our beloved, and lamented, brother. Countless others sought the assistance of his wisdom, as well, and he was always generous in the aid he offered.

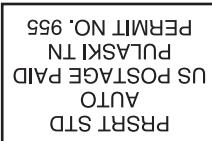
Because of brother Garland Elkins' wisdom and understanding of God's Law, he was a treasured, trusted

counsellor. His godly humility prevented his thinking he "knew it all," and his being a true Christian gentleman prohibited any pompous display. He was as a deep well, filled to overflowing with proper, biblical, and encouraging guidance. Often, I sought his advice, and never was I disappointed. He was a man of intelligence, discernment, and discretion--a trusted counsellor, who could hear one's most confidential inquiries and never repeat them, or use them against one, or betray one's confidence, to gain some personal advantage. What a blessing to have such a friend, a beloved brother, and a wise advisor! His diligent consideration, combined with his experience, and his depth of perception, were so very beneficial, personally, but also to the welfare and growth of the Memphis School of Preaching. His advice provided an invaluable aid in accomplishing our purpose of training and educating preachers.

We thank God for Garland Elkins, and for God's blessing us, so greatly, with the opportunity to work with him daily. He was, indeed, "a counsellor, a wise man, and a scribe." We look forward to when, in that "better country," we shall meet again, with hope enhanced by our having known such a good man.

YOUR END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTION WILL DO UNENDING GOOD!

The vital work of saving the world requires time, effort and resources. The Memphis School of Preaching, has always been dependent on the generous freewill gifts of faithful brethren. Your end of the year contribution to the Memphis School of Preaching would be so beneficial in helping us to carry out the day-to-day operation of the school. Your tax-deductible gift will do much more than lower your tax burden. More importantly, it will increase the spread of the gospel and may help someone to remove his or her burden of sin in the cleansing blood of Christ. Would you please consider making an eternal difference by sending an end of the year contribution to MSOP? Thank you so much for your consideration!



YOKELLOM
3950 Forest Hill Irene Road
Forest Hill Church of Christ
Memphis, TN 38125