

# THE ELBERT DODDS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY & HOMEGOINGS

Compiled by Duane V. Maxey  
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## THE GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF GEN. MOD. & MRS. ELBERT DODD

From the September, 1973 Missionary Revivalist

The "bride and groom" entered the large reception hall and were escorted to special chairs. To their right was a beautiful white "bride's table" holding a five-tiered wedding cake and punch service. Across from it stood a "children's table in golden yellow also holding cake ,and punch. To the left of the couple were several tables displaying gifts for them. Near the arch and candelabras stood a huge bulletin board on which scores of cards bearing congratulations were pinned. Soft music played and Charles Elbert Dodd III stepped forward and sang to his grandparents, "Vows that were sweetly spoken, they've never been broken, they've lived each for the other and both for the Lord."

The Golden Anniversary reception for Rev. and Mrs. Elbert Dodd was held in the War Memorial Building in De Ridder, Louisiana, on June 9, 1973. Their son, Charles, and daughter-in-law, DeJuana, hosted the reception and over 800 friends and relatives gathered in ,to help the honored couple celebrate. Charles, as master of ceremony, asked Dr. Kurtz to open the reception with prayer, He then introduced Rev. L. P. Roberts who spoke briefly. Rev. Jack Hoof presented a check to the Dodds from the Louisiana, South Texas District. "Chuck" joined Donnie Plemons in singing a duet. LaJuana Dodd lit the golden tapers in the candelabras as Charles gave a reading about the Dodd family. A candle was lit for each member. When the reading was finished, there remained one unlit taper. Rev. B. M. Loftin spoke and suggested the candle be lit representing the godly influence the Dodds have had across these fifty years. "May the influence continue, urging men and women and boys and girls towards God until Jesus comes to call ,all away to that greater celebration beyond this world," was the expressed desire. Paul Dodd led in the closing prayer.

Charles and DeJuana ,and their children honored their parents and grandparents with a well-planned reception, but the warmth that was felt was from God. Someone said, "Surely the Dodds. have been .a living example of what God can do with a young couple who choose to place HIM as Lord of their home. Their marriage has been a living testimony for God."

A TRIBUTE TO REV. ELBERT DODD: What makes a man GREAT? His pocket-book? Wealth? His education or a golden tongue? His family? His talents? NO! I think I know what makes a man great:

Giving his shoes to one who had none and driving 100 miles back home shoeless.

Sending a young lad a post card and a personal note.

Shedding his coat and bending his back to lift his brother's work-load.

Living beneath his means that the red and the yellow and the black and the white might know and the missionary might go.

Having faults that fade because of the shining virtues that show.

Standing TALL for womanhood.

Preaching about the handwriting on the wall in 1938. And in 1973.

Stopping by a new trailer home of a new couple. Taking time from a busy schedule to say, "I've come to pray with you in your new home." Leaving a touch of God there.

Driving across the state to speak to one because "God said you might be a bit discouraged!"

Having a reverse gear and great compassion.

God bless Rev. Elbert Dodd!

--Mrs. Roy Keene

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## SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Because many of our people were unable to attend the 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration for Brother and Sister Dodd in Louisiana our District had a surprise reception for them immediately following the annual conference in Duncan.

The dining hall was arranged for the occasion and a brief, but most impressive program was given, led by our District Moderator, Brother Shiery. Brother and Sister Donald Plemons sang beautifully and Sister John Hedges gave a reading composed by Brother Shiery. Deep appreciation was expressed for those, our good leaders, and their example of a happy married couple.

The honored couples' table was decorated, carrying out a yellow and white color scheme. The unique cake was appropriately designed and constructed in the shape of a church, having large

front columns, handsomely decorated entrance, stained glass windows with lighted candles, and topped with an individual cake-for-two elevated as a steeple. Our imagination helped us to envision many, many hearts within this type structure giving thanks to God that our time on earth has corresponded with Brother and Sister Dodd's. Knowing them and their genuine concern for all mankind has enriched our lives greatly.

Appreciation is expressed to all those "helping hands" who made the celebration possible. And we should especially mention that the cake was ordered and paid for by the wonderful group of young people from the Bethany Church. They requested the privilege of doing this to help express their admiration for our leaders.

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MEMORIAL SERVICE -- CHARLES ELBERT DODD

September 11, 1902 -- December 8, 1981

Unless I err, this article is from the February, 1982 Missionary Revivalist -- DVM

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them" (Rev. 14:13).

The memorial service for Brother Elbert Dodd was one of rejoicing and gratitude to God as a crowd of well over five hundred people from across the nation gathered in Lake Charles, Louisiana, to pay tribute to the one above all others who shaped the Bible Missionary Church from its beginning. He was a true prophet of God, fearless warrior, dynamic organizer, evangelist, soulwinner, friend to all and a great general.

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#### ORDER OF SERVICE

Reading of tributes

Rev. Donnie Plemons "They'll Never Crown Jesus 'Till I Get There" Solo

Rev. Charles Dodd III Obituary

Rev. Frank Baldwin Personal words of appreciation

Rev. Spencer Johnson, Gen. Mod.

"What Can Wash Away My sins" (congregational song)

Rev. Richard Gremillion Personal words of appreciation

Rev. J. E. Cook, Gen. Mod. An account of Brother Dodd's death (by his pastor)

Rev. Ronald Schaerer

"Life Is Like A Mountain Railroad" sung by Donnie and Becky Plemons

Message from the text, Rev. 14:13

Rev. B. M. Loftin, Pres. BMI Announcement of an "Elbert Dodd Memorial"

Rev. Donnie Plemons

Closing prayer

Rev. Melvin Shiery

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#### HE'S HOME AT LAST

Safe Home at last; Oh say not he has died.  
His soul has only crossed the swelling tide,  
And heaven's gates for him have opened wide--  
He's Home at last!

A true and valiant warrior of the Faith,  
Proclaiming Christ e'en with his latest breath,  
Has laid his armor down--call it not death.  
He's Home at last!

He now beholds, with eyes undimmed by tears,  
The face of Him who through the passing years,  
Has been his stay, dispelling doubt and fears.  
He's Home at last!

And though his going leaves a void within  
Our lonely hearts, we can rejoice with him;  
His race is run, Heav'n's glory he hath seen.  
He's Home at last!

At home, with those on earth he loved so well,  
Who now within the walls of jasper dwell,  
Oh bliss beyond all mortal pow'r to tell!  
He's Home at last!

Life's sun for him has set--but oh the glow

That long will linger o'er this world of woe,  
Because he lived and labored here below!  
He's Home at last!

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## OBITUARY

By Rev. Frank Baldwin

Rev. Elbert Dodd was born in Indian Territory, Oklahoma, September 11, 1902. He was the son of Rev. John and Maud Dodd of Cherokee Line. He passed away December 8, 1981 at age 79 years and 3 months.

At age four, his parents were converted under the ministry of Rev. Lee Hamerick. His father, Rev. John Dodd, was called to preach and helped pioneer the holiness movement with Rev. C. B. Jernigan.

In 1908, he helped organize the Church of the Nazarene at Pilot Point, Texas. As son of a pioneer preacher, he followed his family from town to town in Tennessee, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas.

In 1923, he fell in love with and married Jessie Brown in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, June 10, 1923. They had one son, Charles Elbert Dodd, Jr.

In a few months prior to his marriage to Jessie Brown, Brother Dodd was converted under the ministry of Rev. Barnhart, grandfather of astronaut Gordon Cooper. A short time later, he was called to preach and resigned his job with the Santa Fe railroad and went out under the stars to follow his call. With his wife, Jessie, and his baby son, Charles, he preached the gospel in school houses and wherever the opportunity afforded across the states of Missouri and Oklahoma.

In 1927, his father influenced him to join the Church of the Nazarene and he took his first church in Davenport, Oklahoma. From Davenport, he pastored the Church of the Nazarene in Dewey, Oklahoma, where the attendance rose from a small handful to over 500 in a town of only 2,000 people. From Dewey, he pastored in Muskogee, Oklahoma where, by the help of God, he built the church to an attendance of over 700. The church was packed out Sunday after Sunday. In 1935, he received a call to pastor the West Tulsa Church of the Nazarene. This church also grew like the other churches he pastored, averaging over 500 each Sunday.

In 1938, Dr. R. T. Williams appointed him District Superintendent of the Louisiana District. The district was composed of 22 churches at that time. He preached camp meetings, brush arbor meetings and any place the opportunity afforded. During a period of 18 years, he organized 63 new churches of the Nazarene in the state of Louisiana. He built a large campground in Alexandria, Louisiana. He also served on the school board of Bethany Nazarene College.

In 1956, he felt led of the Lord to resign as District Superintendent of the Louisiana District. Those who were present at the general conference of the Bible Missionary Church in

Denver, Colorado, in 1956 will never forget how God's blessings fell on the conference when he was elected General Moderator and felt led of the Lord to accept the challenge. He served as General Moderator of the Bible Missionary Church until his retirement in 1979.

As a young lad, I was impressed with the compassion of Brother Dodd and his wife, Jessie. When my little sister died, they came and when there was no available casket, Brother Dodd said, "I'll help you," and he built a casket and his wife lined it. This made an unforgettable impression on me. He was everyone's friend.

It was during the crucial years of the Bible Missionary Church's beginning that God used Brother Dodd to direct and mold the Church. In these past twenty-five years under his leadership the church has grown and there are Bible Missionary Churches in thirty-three states, missionaries in Mexico, South America, Barbados, St. Vincent, New Guinea, Okinawa, Japan, The Philippines, Africa and Spain. There is a Bible College in Rock Island, IL and in Guyana, South America and an orphanage in Beulah Heights, Kentucky.

In 1976, Jessie Dodd went to be with the Lord. One year later, he married Rose Armond of Ponchatoula, Louisiana. She was his faithful companion until his death.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Rose Dodd, one son, Charles Elbert Dodd, Jr., his daughter-in-law, DeJuana Dodd, two sisters, Mrs. Luda Lemons of Houston, Texas and Mrs. Nell McMurty of Lincoln, California; six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

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## MESSAGE

By B. M. Loftin

Brother Loftin brought a short, appropriate message from the text, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord . . . they may rest from their labors . . . their works do follow them" (Rev. 14:13). He had been requested by Brother Dodd himself to preach his funeral message. Space will not allow a full text of the message here. Three main points were presented.

In the first place, Brother Loftin mentioned the labors of Brother Dodd. He was a tireless worker in the Kingdom of the Lord and few men could maintain for long the pace he set. He literally ran in his pastorates, making up to fifty calls a day. He would carry on a conversation and write letters at the same time. His labors included all those things that it takes to be a leader and general of a denomination of churches. This included a devout and consistent prayer life.

The second thing that was mentioned- his works follow him. There is that influence of a godly, Christlike life that is now stemming from those multitudinous labors.

In the third place, there is the blessedness of those who die in the Lord. Blessedness means mainly "happy." Four things that make for this happiness in the life in heaven: Everything that would make for unhappiness is absent--envy, divisions, tears, pain, weariness and the like. In contrast to that, God has provided all things for our joy and happiness. This may not be the same

for everyone but whatever makes "you" happy. In the third place, we will be glorified in our bodies but beyond this, there will be a mental, spiritual, moral quickening so that we can enjoy heaven in the presence of a Holy God--unashamed, unafraid. There will be some pluses--an increased capacity to enjoy God in body, soul and spirit and our emotions glorified to enjoy living in the very presence of God.

Lastly there will be the joy of looking up old friends. The call is to end life here triumphant and join the redeemed, having made an abundant entrance into the life beyond.

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#### EXCERPTS FROM TRIBUTES READ AT THE SERVICE

The death of Brother Elbert Dodd marks the passing of a true hero of the cross. We miss his decisive leadership, his dynamic organizational skills, his unfaltering purpose and sense of direction, his tremendous personal magnetism, his simple faith in God's Word, his unalterable adherence to the Great Commission. We shall never forget him. We thank him for shaping the Bible Missionary Church and for his steadfastness in the time of storm. May God bless his memory and may something of his spirit be left to those of us who remain. -- Frank Baldwin, Dist. Mod. North Central District

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When I was informed of Brother Dodd's passing, my mind went back to the mid 40's when Brother Dodd came to North Nampa Nazarene Church to hold a revival. When I heard him, I immediately responded to his message and his firm stand for old-fashioned holiness. While pastoring in Lawton, Oklahoma in the 50's, I called him for a tent meeting. We became better acquainted. I remember the night in September 1956 when he came to Denver for the first General Conference. God was everywhere present. Brother Dodd sensed His presence and felt definitely impressed to come with us. Thank the Lord he did. He was a wise, faithful leader. He held steady and helped to hold us steady through troubled waters. I appreciate Brother Dodd for many things--his constant sacrifice personally, his prayer life. Many times when I was ill, he would call or write telling me that while in prayer for me God showed him I was ill and I have felt his prayers certainly brought me through many times. Brother Dodd loved people and people loved him. He never grew cold toward those who disagreed with him nor pulled away from them. He never lifted his voice in disgust at me and I am sure he had ample reason. Certainly, this was a sign of bigness on his part. We shall miss him . . . Our church has lost a strong influence for old-fashioned holiness. May God bless his memory and comfort his wife, family and friends.

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Good night, Brother Dodd. We plan to meet you in the morning over there. -- L.P. Roberts, Gen. Treas. (unable to attend the funeral because of sickness)

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Brother Elbert Dodd was my leader and spiritual father for practically all my ministry. He was a great man and a great leader. He led a full life and all of us have been greatly blessed by his life and ministry... We pray God's blessing on Sister Dodd and the family. -- B.M. Loftin, Pres. B.M.I.

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It was my privilege to meet Brother Dodd and hear him preach some years before the Bible Missionary Church came into existence. There was something about his stand for old-fashioned holiness Bible standards that gripped me, and that made a lasting impression on my life and ministry. I loved to hear him thunder home the truth. I admired his boldness and fearlessness. He was a natural born leader of people. How we shall miss him-his strong voice and influence among us, but "he being dead, yet speaketh." -- Carl A. Dillard, Gen. Secretary

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What a large place Brother Dodd has filled in the first twenty-five years of the Bible Missionary Church. We on the Northwest District miss him here but shall see him over there. Our sympathy and prayers are with the family and loved ones. -- Lowell Foster, Dist. Mod. Northwest District

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Our hearts were saddened to learn of the death of Brother Dodd. We feel we have lost one of our family. The members and friends of the Southwest District join me in extending our deepest sympathy to Aunt Rose, Charles Elbert and all the family. -- Foy Bullock, Dist. Mod.

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#### TELEGRAMS

We send our heartfelt sympathy in the passing of our beloved Brother Dodd to Aunt Rose, Charles and family. -- Japan Field

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Our General Board extends sympathy to you, your families and all the Church. The conservative holiness movement has lost a great warrior and friend. -- Marvin Powers, General Presiding Officer, Church of the Bible Covenant.

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Deepest sympathy to the Dodd and Bible Missionary family from God's Bible School.

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## TRIBUTES FROM THE GENERAL MODERATORS

Both of our General Moderators spoke words of tribute. We give excerpts of these here:

Brother Spencer Johnson--He opened his remarks by reading 1 Samuel 3:19, 20, "And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord." Brother Johnson spoke of his relationship and acquaintance and close association with Brother Dodd. Never knew a greater soul winner . . . Brother Dodd loved to preach, he would pay you to get a chance to preach--he preached evangelistic, he preached doctrine, he preached to win souls, he was a champion preacher.., he was a prophet--a real prophet . . . he had the ability to make friends of all classes--bankers, business men, congressmen, governors, poor people, common people, all people . . . he prayed for the sick, he was a friend . . . he signed notes for many, many people . . . he had a strange sense of discernment, he was a "Seer." He had strong convictions -- couldn't be backed down . . . he was a tireless worker.

Brother J. E. Cook--I knew Brother Dodd as a fearless warrior, a soldier of the cross. I watched him develop from a buck private to a general. I first heard him in Jasper, Alabama, in a Sunday school convention . . . He had a keen interest in children.., he preached and did not pull punches . . . he was not an independent. His two songs were the railroad song and the Bible song . . . he was strong in faith and always expected victory . . . always saw the best side.., never spoke of defeats. As a true General, he could lead. He brought fifty-six preachers with him into the Bible Missionary Church. Though rugged, he loved men and believed in giving men a second chance. As a great general, he knew how to set things in order.

Brother Cook recalled Brother Dodd's message at the last General Conference on the theme, "Remove Not The Ancient Landmarks." He reminded us of the soon coming Rapture when all true saints will be re-united.

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## BROTHER DODD'S LAST DAYS ON EARTH

Brother Ronald Schaerer, pastor of Brother Dodd at the time of his death, gave a brief account of those last days. He mentioned the passage in Acts 13:36, "David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep." He paid tribute to Brother Dodd as "the greatest man I ever knew." Brother Dodd's last time to preach was on November 15 from the text, 2 Timothy 3:16 in the Bible Missionary Church in Ponchatoula. Just a few nights before he died, he tried to get out of bed and preach. He said, "the people have come and I must not disappoint them."

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## AT THE CEMETERY

A long funeral procession made its way to the final resting place of the body of our beloved Brother Dodd. As the huge crowd gathered around the open grave, Brother Lowell Foster read the committal and Brother Harold Buchanan prayed the final prayer, following which the crowd began to sing softly, "I Will Meet You In The Morning," and "Amazing Grace."

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#### A FINAL WORD

The great men of the Bible Missionary Church -- those instrumental in its founding and establishment -- are going down the valley one by one. Brother H. B. Huffman--that great, fearless, faithful death-route preacher; Brother Paul King--that lovable, consistent, exhaustless Bible preacher who lived so pure and holy; Brother Alva Turner -that beloved prince of preachers of holiness (we could mention others); and now our number one General who so ably shaped and guided our Zion. All signs point to the imminent coming of our Lord in the Rapture. There will be a grand and glorious meeting in the air. May God grant that we will be among that number that are accounted worthy! -- The Editor

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#### IN MEMORY OF SISTER JESSIE DODD

From the November, 1976 Missionary Revivalist

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#### THE FUNERAL

Early in the morning of September 25, 1976, Mrs. Elbert Dodd (our own Sister Dodd), quietly went to be with Jesus.

On Tuesday, September 28, friends and relatives met for the final service honoring this great lady who, in the words of her pastor, Rev. W. S. Brown, as "a classic example of self-denial."

The evening prior to the funeral had been a memorable one. Sister Dodd lay in state at Hixson's Funeral Home in Lake Charles, Louisiana, dressed in a simple pink dress she had made herself. From far and near they came to console Brother Dodd and Charles and DeJuana, and to pay respects to one who had given over fifty years of her life in the service of the Lord -- the last twenty years of her time and strength were given in His service in the Bible Missionary Church.

Groups gathered and mingled sharing fond remembrances of Sister Dodd -and still they kept coming from north and south and east and west. They embraced each other and loved each other and wept -- and they knew she had played a part in forging the bonds that had bound them

together. There was no grief of despair as those who have no hope -- just a sweetness -- the gentle lingering perfume of a beautiful life.

At the funeral service, an impressive living monument to Sister Dodd's sacrifice and burden was symbolized in the seating of a vast army of Bible Missionary ministers on the left side of the crowded auditorium.

Her grandson and nephew, Rev. Charles Dodd III and Rev. Donald Plemons, opened the service by singing, "Where the Roses Never Fade." Then another nephew, Rev. Frank Baldwin, read the obituary, followed by Charles singing, "When I get to the End of the Way." Rev. Spencer Johnson read telegrams and eulogies. A portion of Proverbs 31 and other appropriate scriptures were read by Rev. J. E. Cook, who also eulogized Sister Dodd. Rev. L. P. Roberts prayed. The message was given by Rev. W. S. Brown, who spoke from the text, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Psalm 116:15. Certainly God anointed Brother Brown, giving him special insight for the delivery of this comforting and beautiful truth. Mrs. Frank Baldwin sang "The Eastern Gate" as the closing song.

Then the long, long procession wound through the streets of Lake Charles until the final resting place was reached. The sun was beginning to sink as Rev. Carl Dillard spoke and prayed at the graveside.

It seemed so right that Sister Dodd's earthly tabernacle should be laid to rest in the State of Louisiana where the best years of her life had been spent in labors of love -- where the pines and the moss-laden trees whisper above and around her and where the crimson azaleas and silent camellias bloom above her -- until Daybreak. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection." Rev. 20:6.

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## THE OBITUARY

June 27, 1901, a daughter, named Jessie, was born to Hulda and Forrest Brown of Neodasha, Kansas. She was the third of seven children. The children were secure in a warm, a loving and a close family relationship. When she was eight years old, the family moved to Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

After her years of education in Fredonia, Kansas and Bartlesville, Jessie Brown attended Business College and was employed by the Santa Fe Railroad where she became acquainted with Elbert Dodd, an ambitious young company employee, whom she invited to church. This friendship matured until on June 10, 1923, Jessie and Elbert were united in marriage. They later became the parents of a son, Charles Elbert Dodd, Jr.

Early in their married life, Bro. Dodd felt the call to preach the gospel. The life of a minister was not easy in those days, but in perfect obedience, the Dodds began what was to be a long and fruitful ministry for the Kingdom of God. They pastored several Oklahoma churches: Davenport, Dewey, Muskogee, and Tulsa. In 1938, General Superintendent of the Church of the

Nazarene, Dr. R. T. Williams, appointed Brother Dodd to the District Superintendency of the State of Louisiana. He ably filled this position until 1956, when he joined the Bible Missionary Church and became General Moderator.

Sister Dodd was saved in her early teenage and never wavered in her Christian experience. As new light came she walked in it, including the light of sanctification. Her son Charles says, "I never saw one thing in all Mother's life that I felt was unchristian or that made me doubt her in any way."

She always graced the parsonage with Christian simplicity and godliness, setting an unsurpassed example of Christian ladyhood. Her ornaments were most beautiful -- meekness and quietness of spirit. But though she was gentle and quiet, Sister Dodd possessed unusual inner strength and dedication to principle and duty.

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#### AN EULOGY TO MRS. ELBERT DODD

By Gen. Mod. J. E. Cook

Since it would be humanly impossible for any individual to adequately honor such a life as that of Sister Elbert (Jessie) Dodd, let us turn to the Bible for God's eulogy of a good woman, recorded in Proverbs 31:10-31. "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it; with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honour are her clothing: and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."

Then, the prophet Elisha made reference to a woman who lived in the city of Shunem that I think is befitting of Sister Dodd when he said, "... where was a great woman," 2 Kings 4 : 8b. I have been acquainted with the Elbert Dodd family for over thirty years, but never had the privilege of being closely associated with them until we became co-laborers in the Bible Missionary Church. Though we both lived in Duncan, Oklahoma, rarely did our schedules permit us to be

home at the same time. But it was these times of fellowship together that caused wife and I to discern that Sister Dodd was truly the "First Lady of the Church."

She was a Great Help-Meet to her husband in so many ways, but especially in the ministry. Her life was so exemplary that she was never an embarrassment to her husband's preaching in any way. Moreover, Brother Dodd respected his wife's judgment and counsel. She was never forward with her advice, but many have heard her quiet "Now, Daddy" cause her husband to reconsider a matter. Her keen intellect and industrious mind kept her reaching for maximum efficiency in support of her husband's ministry and the outreach of the gospel. Even in the late years of her life she read the Spanish New Testament through ten times and was studying the New Guinea Pidgin English Bible.

She was also a Devoted Companion. Most of the time she was at his side, whether they were touring the districts, making an overseas missionary visit or going on a deep sea fishing trip, even though it might involve sea sickness. Brother Dodd's affectionate "Pal" indicated yet another role in life she endeavored to fill -- that of constant companionship with her husband.

Then, she was a Wonderful Mother. Both she and Brother Dodd demonstrated a deep and lasting love for their son and his family, and Charles Elbert, his wife and children returned this love in many, many ways, but especially during her illness, Charles Elbert was very attentive to her needs. When Sister Dodd's sister Matia told Charles Elbert she had a premonition that Sister Dodd would not make it through the night, despite all indications to the contrary, Charles felt the least he could do would be to sit up all night with his mother. He was so glad he did, for in the early morning hours she passed away. But hers was a true mother's love and concern for her loved ones. For years one or more of the grandchildren would travel with Brother and Sister Dodd during the summer camp meeting season while Sister Dodd, rather than ride along idle, would knit or crochet lovely things for her family as they traveled the miles together. No doubt this interest influenced the grandchildren greatly, for three of the boys have become preachers of the gospel.

Finally, she was a Sincere Christian, and exemplified the spirit of Christ in the beauty of Holiness. She was converted at the age of thirteen in the Wine Benarian Church of God in the State of Kansas, while Astronaut Gordon Cooper's grandfather Herd was doing the preaching. A few years later she met Elbert Dodd and invited him to church with her, and he was saved and called to preach. This courtship resulted in marriage and they began their journey together that lasted for fifty-three years. She was devoted to God, His House and the Bible standards of modesty in dress. When a young Christian, the office girls where she worked plotted to cut her hair in the "flapper girl" cut which was popular, and she informed them that it would take more girls than there were in that office to accomplish that task, so they dropped the plan. As a result, the scissors were never applied to her hair all of her life. She read in the Bible that a "woman's long hair is her glory, and she desired to be a Bible Christian. Along with her convictions, she possessed that rare gift of a "Meek and quiet spirit, which in the sight of God is of great price. She was a wonderful example, especially to the young preachers' wives. "The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children. To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the into their nice home and entertaining us so royally.

On Sunday morning, September 19, we were with our Wichita Falls, Texas, church, where Rev. Paul Dodd is the pastor. The attendance was good and the blessing of God was upon the service. It was a joy to see Sister Oliver Newsom present and showing signs of being much better. Let our folk everywhere keep praying for her. We enjoyed a wonderful meal at the parsonage with Brother and Sister Paul Dodd. He showed us through their Christian Day School set-up, which seemed to me to be a going concern. God is giving the Dodds a good ministry in this great area.

Sunday afternoon we drove to Dallas, Texas, to be with our Dallas church, where our son William Cook is the pastor. We found a wonderful spirit in the service and the Lord blessed our gathering together with souls in the altar seeking to find victory. We always enjoy visiting our Dallas church and naturally, being with our son and his fine family.

Our next assignment was Pueblo, Colorado, where we are presently in revival services with Brother and Sister A. G. Johnson and their faithful people. We had only finished the first Sunday services when we were called to Lake Charles, Louisiana, for the funeral of Sister Elbert (Jessie) Dodd. Everyone knew she was in failing health, but no one was prepared for the shock of her sudden passing. But she told her son, Charles Elbert, that she was ready to go. The funeral service was attended by some five hundred people, but oh, the presence and anointing of God upon that service was glorious. After placing her body in the "silent city of the dead" to await the resurrection morning, we returned to Pueblo, Colorado, to continue revival services. Every service has been blessed of God with His wonderful presence. The Lord is giving Brother and Sister Johnson a good ministry here. He is about to lose sight in one of his eyes and I would appreciate our people everywhere praying for him. At this writing the revival has not closed, but we are expecting to see some more folk seek the Lord and also to receive some wonderful people into the church membership.

May God bless all the Bible Missionaries and friends until we meet again through the medium of The Missionary Revivalist.

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#### TRIBUTES AND WORDS OF COMFORT

Many, many telegrams, letters, phone calls were received by Brother Dodd expressing sympathy and also expressing deepest appreciation for the life of Sister Dodd. A number of these tributes to Sister Dodd were read by Brother Spencer Johnson at the funeral service. We append a few of them here:

"Back of every great man that has lived is a great woman. This was so in Brother Dodd's case. Jessie Brown Dodd had a great influence in his salvation; she was a balance wheel, a challenge to him to be at his best; a wise counselor; a devoted sweetheart. She was a good example and one you would never be ashamed to have in camps and conferences. She was a true soldier of the cross and warred a good warfare, kept the faith and finished her course with victory." -- Spencer Johnson

In Loving Memory Of One Of My Dearest Friends . . . Sister Dodd  
By Lucille King

On Saturday, September 25, someone irreplaceable was transplanted from earth to glory. The news of her sudden homegoing filled my heart with deep sadness. I lost a true and devoted friend; someone who was as near and dear to me as a blood kin!

Sister Dodd was a woman of principle. She lived and led an exemplary life of Godlikeness. She was great in her quiet and totally unpretentious way, and exceedingly humble; ready and willing to give sound counsel or advice but never "forward" or "pushy." She was sensitive but not easily offended; firm in her convictions yet gentle and sweet and kind in "her resoluteness. She was a "lady" in the highest and truest sense of the word.

Her passing has left an aching void... a hurt in my chest, a little more loosening of things earthy but a glorious hope in my heart. By the grace of God I will see her again! Together, we shall fellowship and laugh and love and live.. in God's Eternal City. Until the dawning of that day my heart will hold and cherish the memory of this noble and lovely woman who, by the side of her dear husband, graced District and General Assembly platforms like a queen, was a bulwark of strength and encouragement to her companion, and whom I loved dearly and devotedly.

There's a City o'erlooking Mount Zion;  
Its glories I mean to behold...  
Where Jesus and loved ones are waiting  
And nobody ever grows old.

Its walls I am told are pure jasper...  
The City is great, deep and wide,  
Its inhabitants are happy and holy...  
By the blood they have been sanctified.

They are waiting, and calling us yonder...  
These dear ones, with beckoning hands:  
Voices call us today from this City...  
The voices of loved ones and friends.

And I mean to join their blest number  
To dwell where the Lamb is the light  
And live with Jesus and loved ones  
In this City of peace and delight.

Till then, farewell, dearest Sister Dodd. By the grace of God, I will meet you in the morning!" -- Lucille King

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"Sister Dodd was truly the personification of ideal womanhood according to the divine plan. She was modest in spirit and dress. She was reserved and reticent but not withdrawn. Her speech and conversation were always in subdued tones. A dignity like a halo surrounded her life and character so that one would feel that in her presence there was a sanctity that belonged almost to the angels.

"From her Godly character and spirit there emanated the sweet flow of humility and meekness that gave everyone in her presence or all who knew her, incentive and challenge to the higher and nobler qualities of soul. Her sacrificial spirit and love for her God and her church was unsurpassed.

"Surely she was a Mother in Israel, a bulwark of strength, and a pillar in the House of her God and to her precious husband. All who knew her will rise up and call her blessed.

"Her sweet memory will live on among us and her exemplary influence upon all whose life she touched.

"May God give comfort and strength to you, dear Brother Dodd, and to Charles and family and all the other loved ones and friends.

"We shall miss you, Sister Dodd, but our hearts' inmost desire is made stronger to make it to the City where parting is no more." -- Rev. & Mrs. E. E. Michael

"The church has received another great shock in the passing of our beloved Sister Dodd. She was well known by our people from coast to coast and in many other parts of the world, having traveled with Brother Dodd for years in his work at home and abroad. Sister Dodd was respected by so many; she was consistent in her profession. Surely she was a noble woman, true to her obligation, always and ever devoted to her husband. She was deeply interested in everything that touched his life, ready to go wherever he was called to go. The influence will abide in the Bible Missionary Church.

We do not sorrow as do those who have no hope, for we are sure she made the landing. Many have been blessed by her life. She now wears a brighter crown than the queens of the earth.  
-- A. J. Hoof, District Moderator of the Louisiana-S. Texas District, Bible Missionary Church

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## PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD

Message Preached at Sister Jessie Dodd's Funeral Service  
September 28, 1976  
By Rev. W. S. Brown, Pastor

The life of Sister Jessie Dodd is a strong commentary on the beautiful scripture Brother Cook has read from Proverbs 31. But there is another outstanding statement of scripture I wish to call to your attention from Psalm 116. It says, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his

saints." These many telegrams, phone calls and letters, as well as this great crowd today, remind us of the worth of one of God's saints. God calls His bloodwashed children saints. Only two times were the people of God called Christians in the New Testament; the rest of the time they were called saints. Christian is an earthly name because the true people of God are Christlike. But Saint is a God-given name and it describes the relationship of God and His children. These telegrams and phone calls tell us how mankind feels at the home-going of a Christian. We express our appreciation for the life that was lived, but nearly always our sorrow at their passing. But God looks at the Christian's death from a different side, and uses a strong term when He says, "Precious is the death of his saints," and while we sorrow here, God rejoices that another child has been redeemed and has come home.

This scripture tells us that God does have "His saints." That means redemption and union with Jesus Christ. The natural man certainly is unholy, wicked and rebellious. But the atonement of the Savior changes us completely. We are His saints by our love, devotion, and surrender to Him, and because of our resemblance to Him and our Godlike spirits He gave to us. We are His saints because we choose to live in His wonderful will.

Sister Dodd's life has been an outstanding testimony of that fact. As a teen-age girl she sought and found God, and has been a steadfast Saint of God all through the years. She never wavered in the crises of life, and was largely responsible in leading her husband to the Lord before they were married. She well deserves the name of Saint. "His saints" expresses, endearment, and the Psalmist said they are precious to Him. You and I know the dearest and most precious treasure we have is our children, our own flesh and blood. No sacrifice is too great for their welfare. Many times have I seen a mother play with and hug her baby to her breast and exclaim, "Precious, precious." I believe that is what the psalmist was saying to express God's feeling in the text. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

But death for the saint is far different than for the ungodly. The Bible speaks of the saint's death in several different ways. It speaks of it as a key in the door. In Rev. 1:17-18 Jesus said to John, "Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Hell or Hades was the abode of the dead; it had two compartments. Tartarus was the abode of the wicked dead and Elysium or Paradise was the abode of the righteous dead, and in between was the great gulf fixed. Peter tells us that when Jesus gave up the ghost He descended into Hades and proclaimed to the spirits in prison that He was alive forevermore and that He had the keys of death and hell. I believe he'll lit up one time with His presence, the Light of the World, the Son of the Living God. Hallelujah! That does something to me; so comforting to know that He has the key to the door of death, and when He opens it for us He will be there to take us through. He purchased that key with the blood of the Atonement. This tells me that I will not die until He inserts the key in the door, for me. Praise God! "Our times are in His hands," and He will be there when He calls us. As He was with Stephen, the first Christian martyr. The Bible says He stood up to welcome him home. Could it be that He stood again to welcome Sister Dodd home? But the secret is in the fact that we are His, we have given Him our entire life, our complete surrender to Him, and He owns us today. John Wesley declared that the sanctified could not die until God was through with them. That is borne out in the story of Job; the devil could not go farther than God permitted him to. We can rest on the fact that He has the key to the door of death and will open the passage way for us.

Then, death is a change of address. The scripture says, "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle (a tent) were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." The old timers used to sing, "Christ went a building to prepare, Not made with hands, I know, I know; I have another building, I know, I know, not made with hands." A tent is a very fragile home; the winds blow, rains come, snow piles up, and they will finally decay and rot. And so are these bodies. The best we try to patch these bodies up, the eyes will grow dim, the hands become feeble and the feet tottery, until we will trade this mortal tent for a House of God not made with hands.

The Saints of God never die; they just move. John 11:26 says, "I am the resurrection and the life; whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." Praise God! Moving day is coming to us all. These flowers, this casket and this body tell us this was an earthly house, but Sister Dodd has moved and is gone. Our new home is a prepared place for a prepared people. St. Paul said, "I am in a strait; for me to remain with you is more needful, but to go on is far better." The wife of an old preacher friend who had died told my wife and me how terribly lonely she had been since her husband's death. She had visited with the children, different places, and no place seemed like home any more. She said, "As I rode the train one night, so blue and discouraged, I looked out the window and a bright star held my attention, and as I watched it, it parted and my husband's face appeared, with such a big smile and an expression of complete rest from toil and burdens until I could no longer wish for him to come back." And as the world plunges on toward Armageddon these words, "to be with Christ is far better," take on a deeper meaning for us. The Lord's coming is very soon. Newspaper news declares it; the re-gathering of Israel is the main sign; world government; world church; the great falling away of spiritual people; the forming of the ten kingdoms; and now the Russian Bear is poised to take a spoil from the Holy Land. All this says the trumpet is about to sound. Friend, are you ready? Better make haste and get ready! So death is a change of address. Sister Dodd has moved.

Then, death is an answer to prayer. This may sound a little surprising, but you remember the High Priestly prayer Jesus prayed for His disciples in John 17, and that included us. He reminded the Father that they were a clean crowd, not of the world. And He prayed, "Don't take them out of the world, but keep them from the evil." Then in verse 17 He prayed, "Sanctify them," and in verse 24 He says, "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am." Praise God! When the perplexing problems began to come for the disciples, Jesus knew they would need some comfort and He said, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." So when God calls a child of His home, He is answering the Savior's prayer. That is exactly what happened last Saturday morning when Sister Dodd folded her earthly tent and took her flight to those mansions of God, and it is precious in God's sight. In praying about Sister Dodd's sickness in recent months I found myself asking the Lord to please heal her and give them some added time together in their twilight years, in their new home in Lake Charles, the place and people they loved so well. I thought of their sacrifice of living in little parsonages, little salaries, sacrificial giving, Brother Dodd being gone much of the time from her and Charles. I felt, "Surely, Lord, they deserve some extra happy times together. But as Brother Dodd told me yesterday, God had a different plan. And in my understanding of her godly

character, I can hear her say, "Now, Daddy, I have moved over on Hallelujah Boulevard. We have a beautiful mansion and I am getting it ready for you. Keep preaching the gospel just like you always have; sound the alarm; keep calling sinners to repentance and believers to a holy walk with God. Charles, you and DeJuana be ready for the Lord's coming. Keep the children around where they can hear the true gospel of salvation and deliverance from sin. Chuck, you and Paul be true to your calling, and when it's all over I will be waiting to meet you in that final day." May the Lord bless the memory of Sister Dodd's godly influence to our hearts and lives for many years to come.

I think oft times as the night draws nigh  
Of the old farm house on the hill;  
Of a yard all wide and blossom-starred  
Where the children played at will.

And when the night at last came down  
Hushing the merry din,  
Mother would look around and say,  
"Are all the children in?"

'Tis many and many a year since then,  
And the house upon the hill  
No longer echoes to children's feet,  
And the yard is still, so still.

But I see it all, the shadows creep,  
And though many years have been  
Since then, I can hear Mother ask,  
"Are all the children in?"

I wonder when the shadows fall  
On the last, short earthly day,  
When we say good-bye to the world outside  
All fired with our childish play;

When we step out into that other land  
Where Mother so long has been,  
Will we hear her ask, just as of old,  
"Are all the children in?"

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THE END