

INDUCTEES

into

HALL OF FAME

At the September 18, 2001 meeting and the September 12, 2002 meeting of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission, five persons were selected for induction into the Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame for 2001, and five persons were selected for induction for 2002.

The Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame is an ongoing project of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society and the nominees were formally presented for induction at their October 18, 2002 meeting at the Baptist Building in Oklahoma City.

2001

Governor John Frippo Brown
Willis Burns
Dr. F. M. Masters
William Durant Moorer
J. A. Scott

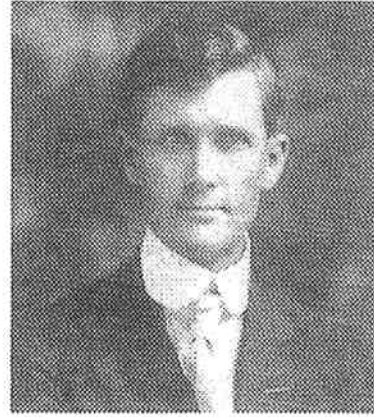
2002

E. A. Abernethy, M.D.
Maude Abner
Charlie McCloud Curb
Sophia Duerksen
C. P. Stealey

A brief biographical sketch of each inductee follows:

CHARLIE McCLOUD CURB

Charlie McCloud Curb was born to Monroe and Fannie Curb in Bell County, Texas, on October 29, 1876. He was the seventh of thirteen children, three of whom died in a diphtheria epidemic. The family moved to the Chickasaw Nation in southern Indian Territory near Leon and Burneyville. Charlie grew up there, in what is now Love County, Oklahoma.



Charlie was a frail child, and when he was 19 years old his parents took him to Sulphur Springs and Oil Springs in an attempt to improve his health. It did him little good, and in March 1897 he weighed only 100 pounds.

Being confined to the house, Charlie was exposed to the Bible teaching of his devout Baptist mother and Grandmother Mary, who lived with them. This no doubt deeply influenced the course of his later life.

On July 30, 1895, Fannie Curb wrote that “Charlie professed religion and joined the church.” Later Charlie wrote about this as follows: “It happened in a brush arbor meeting at Friendly Hope Church under the preaching of great day of his wrath is come, and who shall be able to Stand?”

Two weeks later, Charlie traveled to Jack County, Texas, to try the mineral waters there. He stayed for eight months, but his health problems continued. It wasn’t until about August 1898, when he was nearly 22 years old, that he began to rapidly gain strength.

Charlie began preaching in 1899. He wanted to go to seminary, but his recurrences of illness hindered this possibility. In 1900 his father bought—for \$16—a buggy to facilitate his travel to preaching opportunities.

In December 1900 Charlie's parents moved to Greer County, Oklahoma, near Headrick. They delayed their leaving in order to attend a special Service of Ordination for Charlie at Canon Chapel Church on December 16, 1900.

Charlie helped his family move and stayed with them for about four weeks. He then returned to Burneyville to resume his preaching in various churches in the area. A year later, he accepted the pastorate at Ryan, followed by other pastorates at Fair and at Rush Springs.

At Rush Springs a 21-year-old school teacher named Martha Kilgore accepted Christ and was baptized. On November 16, 1902, Charlie and Martha were married at her parents' home at nearby Denton, I.T. His father-in-law was one of the earliest settlers in Comanche County, and he donated an acre of land for a Baptist church at Denton.

Charlie was very busy doing evangelistic work. He helped organize new Baptist churches at Marlow, Sterling and Hewett and pastored each one briefly. While at Marlow, their first child, Trula Frances, was born. Charlie later pastored at Denton for three years. Both he and Martha attended a small Baptist academy at Hastings.

In the fall of 1905, Charlie, Martha and Trula moved to Blackwell, where he enrolled for the school year at Oklahoma Baptist College to study Theology courses. Their second child, Mamie Morris Curb was born at Blackwell. His parents moved again, this time to Metcalf in what would later be Harmon County. Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory had become the *State of Oklahoma*.

Over the next several years, Charlie did mostly independent evangelistic work, pastoring briefly at Waurika and at Granite. The 1912 publication of the Mullins Baptist Association called "The Baptist Worker" referred to Charlie Curb as the association's missionary.

The Curb's third child and first son, John B. Curb, was born in Duncan on January 15, 1912. Their second son,

Charles M. Curb, Jr., was born on April 16, 1914 in Oklahoma City, where Charlie was pastor of the Capitol Hill Baptist Church. After this he became the District Missionary of Central Association (Oklahoma County). His fifth and last child, Mildred Elizabeth was born in Oklahoma City on December 23, 1916.

In 1918 Charlie was transferred to a General Missionary assignment under the State Board, and his family moved to Enid. His beloved mother died in 1919, and Charlie and his brother, Dan, both spoke at her funeral.

From 1918 to 1924 *The Baptist Messenger* reported on Charlie's evangelistic work among the churches. Charlie practiced one-on-one witnessing and would approach even a total stranger with questions like "Are you a Christian?" and "Would you like to be?" He admonished fellow preachers to follow up their preaching with personal witnessing.

In 1924 Charlie pastored for a brief period in Waurika, then became assistant pastor of First Baptist Church of Enid. He worked there for four years before returning to his favored work in independent evangelism.

Trula Curb married Reverend Robert S. Bazzell in 1929. John Curb married Juanita Hunt in 1936. Mamie Curb married Hershel Crawford, and Charles Curb, Jr., married Stella Stout in 1941. Mildred Curb married Therio McClure in 1939.

In 1931 Charlie was elected Missionary of the Oklahoma County Association. A short time later, Dr. Andrew Potter, Secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, asked Charlie to become State Evangelist or Missionary, since he had been holding meetings and doing general missionary work throughout the state. The Oklahoma County Association continued to pay him a meager salary, but it was inadequate for his support; therefore, freewill offerings were given in the churches he served in revivals.

Charlie's report to the Missionary Board for 1932 was that in the churches in which he worked there had been 500 decisions for baptism and 300 additions by letter. In 1933 he conducted 23 revivals and delivered 354 sermons. He made 556 religious visits. There were received into those churches 354 persons for baptism and 75 by letter.

On January 29, 1932, Charlie's father died at the age of 89. At the funeral Charlie led in prayer and his brother, Dan, read the obituary. His brother, Will, delivered a eulogy.

In April 1935 it was reported that Charlie spent 41 days in three meetings, where there were a total of 89 additions by baptism and 20 by statement or letter. And so the reports continued throughout the nine years that Charlie served as State Evangelist. The one in *The Baptist Messenger* of May 9, 1935, said, "...no man among us is better known or more universally loved than C. M. Curb."

Charlie officially retired from his State Mission Board post in 1941 when he was 65, but he was far from retired from his zeal for winning souls. He and Martha lived in Oklahoma City, and he became the assistant pastor at Olivet Baptist Church. He served there for the rest of his life.

A feature article was published in the *Daily Oklahoman* on October 14, 1951 about Charlie and his older brother, Dan, having a combined 100 years of preaching in the Baptist ministry. Charlie had 52 of those years, for he had begun preaching first.

During that same week, Charlie and Martha were busy visiting prospects during a revival at Olivet Church. On Thursday evening, Charlie walked down the aisle to the front with two men he had helped lead to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The following morning he arose, took a few steps from his bed and collapsed with a heart attack.

Charlie died on October 19, 1951, just ten days before his 75th birthday and a month before he would have celebrated with Martha their 59th wedding anniversary. His funeral was at Olivet Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, and he was buried at Rose Hill Cemetery.

The editor of *The Baptist Messenger* described Charlie Curb as “the greatest personal soul winner I have ever known.” Family members described him as modest, friendly, jovial, and loving. He was widely known over the state and had looked forward to his retirement to his home in Heaven.

Submitted by Delmer L. Allen

Bibliography

Curb, Dolph L., “Preacher Charlie Curb: The Life and Ministry of an Early Day Evangelist,” paper written April 1, 1988