

transportation in such a way that he was unable to make the necessary bus connections to meet his appointments so he had to discontinue his services at Bethany on February 13, 1943.

While pastoring here, Brother Mann delivered our home-coming message of June 7, 1942, in the morning, and the afternoon was given to a beautiful song service.

While Brother Mann was here he asked for special collections to build a fund to repair and paint our building. He scheduled this for the coming summer.

The project was completed on schedule. Brother Mann had a reward to look forward to for the many sacrifices he made, as many of our former pastors who had to pastor churches in those difficult times.

In 1932, Brother Mann had the privilege of helping to institute Lake Dale Baptist Church. He preached the first sermon there in the pine woods. The pulpit was a pine stump sawed off to lay the Bible on. He preached in this fashion until Brother John Wilson sawed and furnished the lumber to build a house which had a sawdust floor.

Churches like this were founded on the Solid Rock and faith in the followers of our Saviour Christ.

#### REVEREND OSCAR O. ROBERTS

Brother Roberts was a great blessing that came to us at a time when we needed a pastor, as our former pastor,

Brother Cecil Mann, was unable to finish his church year with us. Brother Roberts was officially called to pastor March 14, 1943, and was in position to accept the position that day. He served faithfully until October 22, 1944, when he went to Immokalee to serve the next church year. Brother Roberts had previously ministered to us from time to time and had conducted a revival for us in August, 1920.

The older generation of today were teenagers at that time and were impressed with Brother Roberts' attitude, concern and understanding of their problems. He had a gift in knowing how to reach out to them, making them feel comfortable and protected. During this revival the young people accepted the Lord as their Saviour and acknowledged him in their lives.

Reverend Oscar was a descendant of the Henry Carson Roberts and Nancy Ann (Norris) Roberts who migrated to this section in May, 1882, from Bainbridge, Georgia.

Brother Oscar was born December 16, 1893, into the family of Burrell Fiveash Roberts and Henretta A. Hendry Roberts, known to her family and friends as "Jeal." After a courtship of seven years, Brother Oscar married Miss Lottie Bell Roberts who was born March 6, 1896. Her parents were brother Charles Roberts and Sister Mary Ada, (Gillis).

Roberts "of no relation to Reverend Oscar's family."

Brother Roberts and his wife were raised in Christian homes of large families: Oscar, in the area of Fort Green and Bowling Green and Mrs. Lottie, in the New Zion community.

Reverend Oscar was a brilliant Bible student, capable of programming his study courses and methods.

I (Vera Dupree) remember once he was visiting in our home and asked if it would disturb our rest if he got up early in the morning to study. As he was one of those people who required very little sleep, he made it a part of his everyday schedule to rise early every morning at four A and study his Bible, and no doubt about it, the Holy Spirit was his great teacher.

Reverend Oscar from his youth was a cattle rancher and they operated their own ranches for years in the Sandy area and in later years below Fort Myers when the tragedy of a storm with an abundance of water destroyed their ranching business.

For many, many years Brother Oscar and Eligiah Roberts were "side-kicks". "Lige" as we all knew him, being a first cousin to Mrs. Lottie Roberts, they felt close family ties. Reverend Oscar and "Lige" seemed perfect co-workers as they thought alike, managed alike, both loved nature and the outdoors and no two people loved hard labor and long hours as they did.

It seemed their whole way of life was in accord.

After the disaster of their ranch, the Roberts moved back to Hardee County and Brother Roberts began to wan but he still carried God's message effectively as his health permitted. During his ministry he pastored a great many churches in this area and was very active in the church programs and loved the singing ministry. He wrote over a hundred beautiful Gospel songs. Some have not yet been published.

Brother Oscar had the ability, delivery, and talents of a very effective evangelist and he used them a lot during his ministry.

The Lord called Brother Oscar home August 8, 1976, and Sister Lottie, September 7, 1986, after ninety years of faithful Christian living. They were interred in the New Zion Cemetery.

They leave three sons in God's loving care, Otis, Russel and Jean Roberts.

REVEREND JOHN HENRY JOHNSTON

Reverend Johnston pastored Bethany Baptist Church in 1944.

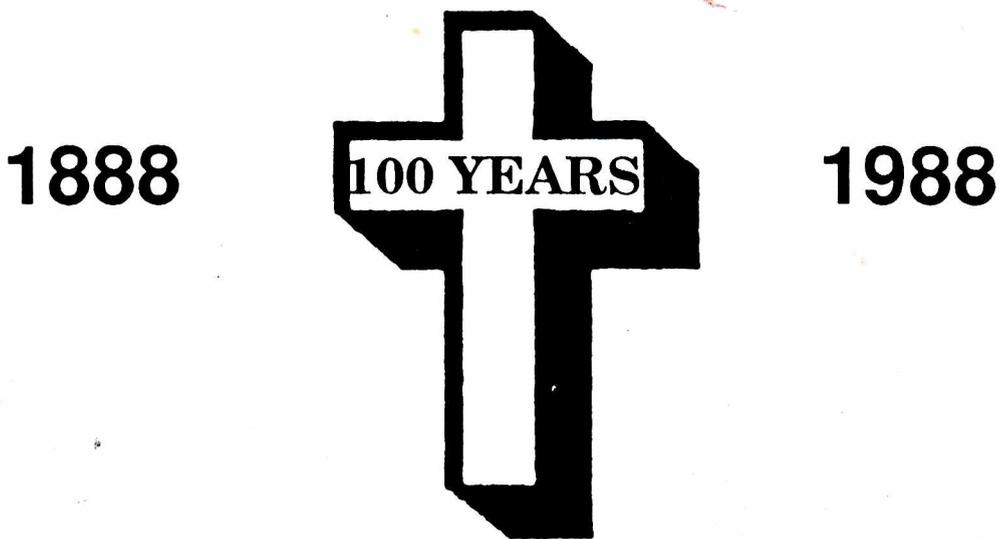
He was born October 31, 1886, into the Jacob Johnston family of Glenville, Georgia, where he grew to manhood. He was married June 2, 1912, to Miss Effie Hester Hicks,

# BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

~~BET BOY 300~~ 26604-SR64E

MYAKKA CITY, FLORIDA 34251

## A CENTURY



## OF MEETING

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## PREACHING

A.O. HENDRY, Pastor

FLORIDA BAPTIST  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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