



Thomas Henry Busby

HONORING - 90th BIRTHDATE

By
J. S. Winston

Honor to Bro. Thomas Henry Busby, who will be 90 years young November 6. Born in Milan, Tennessee 1878. According to our records Bro. Busby is the oldest living Evangelist of the Church of Christ today. He reports that he obeyed the Gospel 73 years ago under the preaching of Bro. Mose Henry, in Blackton, Arkansas.

For 63 years he has been an active minister of the Gospel of Christ. Because of his continual use of lesson charts he was called the "Rag Preacher". He has conducted from seven to ten meetings every year, he has records of several churches that he has conducted meetings for every year: Wiggins, Mississippi (42 years); Hulando, Mississippi (35 years); Tullahoma, Tennessee (35 years) and a number of others numbering 15 to 20 years. I know of no other minister who could or can boast of this record. While I was in a meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, August 30, he had just closed his 7th meeting for this year, and reported that he has already 9 meetings for 1969. He says he has always done the baptizing in his meetings, but in his last meeting he had two men to obey that were too large for him to baptize.

Bro. T. H. Busby has never had a Church or anyone to sponsor his Evangelistic work, yet in his own more or less quiet way he has done an outstanding work in the Evangelistic field. No records have been kept of the number of people baptized during his 63 years in the Ministry, but I feel sure that through his ministry many hundreds have been baptized into Christ.

Bro. Busby, reported that he was one of the first students of Bro. G. P. Bowser in the old Silverpoint Christian College at Silverpoint Tennessee. He said Bro. Bowser made an

agreement with him; that if he would teach Church music in the school, he would teach him the Bible and how to preach. This brought about an inseparable relationship between he and Bro. Bowser. *

Bro. T. H. has served a great part in all good works in furthering the cause in our Brotherhood. The Silverpoint Christian College, the beginning of our School Movement at Ft. Smith Arkansas in 1938, when the Bowser Christian Institute had no Board of Directors or organized means of support, Bro. Busby every month would give his check for \$25.00 (a lot of money at that time). He has continued his support to our School Movement, and did a good part in helping to establish and support Southwestern Christian College.

The Christian Echo — He says that he helped Bro. Bowser to print the very first issue of the Echo 66 years ago, and has continued his support as a Staff Writer and subscription Agent to this day.

He has served as Minister to the Church: Montgomery, Alabama; Jackson, Mississippi; Jackson, Tennessee; Pleasant Union Tennessee; Tullahoma, Tennessee and Wichita, Kansas (20 years)

I am asking all of you who know and have known Bro. Busby, and his work for many years, as a great laborer for the Master, and the work he has done; to join in this salute of honor to this grand old soldier on his 90th birthdate. Let's give him honor while he can enjoy it. In the words of an unknown author:

"If pleasure you are viewing, any work a man is doing
And you like him, or you love him, say it now!
Don't withhold your approbation, 'Till the Parson makes
orations

And he lies with snowy lilies o'er his brow.
For no matter how you shout it, He won't really care about
it

He won't know how many teardrops you have shed!
If you think some praise is due him, now's the time to hand
it to him,

For he cannot read his tombstone when he is dead.

....Let the words of true encouragement be said!

Let's not wait 'till life is over, and he lies beneath the clover
For he cannot read his tombstone when he is dead."

Address all mail to:

T. H. Busby, 216 Mosley St., Little Rock, Ark.