

1979 MINUTES DEDICATED TO



James Robert Lail
September 2, 1920
January 16, 1979



Rev. and Mrs. Luther
Hawkins



Mrs. Wesley Coffey

JAMES ROBERT LAIL was born September 2, 1920, in Alexander County, the son of the late Troy Lail and Mrs. Julie Lail. He was married to Faye Sue Chapman, October 14, 1939, at York, S. C., by the Justice of Peace — E. Gettis Nunn.

He is the father of Jerry Lail — a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; Bob N. Lail with Parker-Taylor Co., Greensboro; Mrs. Linda Beane — a Graduate Student at Appalachian State University, Boone; Jack Lail — Broyhill Industries, Lenoir; and Mrs. Kenneth (Brenda) Moss — Secretary, Fairfield Chair Furniture Company Office, Lenoir. He has three grandchildren.

He finished High School and attended Fruitland Bible Institute.

He was converted in 1940 at the Beulah Baptist Church in Alexander County, and felt the call to preach in 1942. His first pastorate was the Beulah Baptist Church 1943-45. Other pastorates held were Millersville 1944-46, Liledoun 1944-49, Mt. Hermon 1946-49, Oxford Memorial 1948-52, Smyrna 1949-53, Antioch 1949-58 — all in Alexander County and Bethany 1945-47, Iredell County, Statesville. 1958-1978 — Flemings Baptist Church in the Caldwell Missionary Baptist Association.

He was active in the work of the Caldwell Baptist Association having served as President of the Pastor's Conference in 1962, on the Petitionary Letters Committee, Committee on Committees, Seminary Extension, and brought a number of reports to the annual session of the association. He was to have preached the Annual Sermon in 1978, but was unable to do so because of his illness.

He came to the Caldwell Association in 1958 where they lived in the lovely Flemings Chapel Baptist Church Parsonage. Flemings showed 341 resident membership, with 142 enrolled in Training Union, and 275 in Sunday School. Gifts to missions that year was \$1,181.33. During his years of service here the organizations of Sunday School, Church Training, Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood increased, and with a special emphasis on Missions, their

mission giving for the year 1978 amounted to \$15,102.55. The Church grew under his leadership, and the church building was completely renovated and enlarged, and a new educational unit was added, along with a fellowship building.

Miss Virgie Kirby (now Mrs. Wayne Sorrells) became the first missionary out of this church, and they are serving in Brazil. She is helping with the music, and family work there, along with the organizational work in the churches there.

He was not only interested in the Church, but shared in the School and Community activities. He helped and encouraged his children to get a good education.

Mrs. Lail said, "He was a good husband, and father and encouraged all of us in the work of the church and the activities that we were interested in." Jack Lail served as choir director for a number of years in the Flemings Chapel Church. Jack, Linda and Brenda sang together and shared their music and testimony in many churches and associational activities.

As Director of Missions, Miss Campbell says, "I watched him and through his leadership his church grew, especially in the areas of organizations, and most of all in missions and mission giving."

He was loved by the people of his church, and was faithful to the meetings of the association as long as he was able. He will be missed greatly by all who knew him. HE LOVED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF GOOD NEWS — THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, and many have come TO FOLLOW THE CHRIST because of his preaching. What higher tribute could be paid anyone who "preached the Word."

REV. AND MRS. W. LUTHER HAWKINS. W. Luther Hawkins was born May 9, 1902, in Kings Mountain, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Hawkins. He was married to Pearl Keller, June 15, 1950, at the Pooveys Grove Baptist Church, the Rev. John Carter, Pastor. Pearl Keller was born in Caldwell County April 10, 1905, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Keller. They have no children. A funny thing happened when they were getting married, Charles McAlister was ushering Luther's Mother down the aisle at the wedding and he said to her, "Who in the _____ would have thought this would ever happen?"

Luther finished High School in Gastonia and he became the Associate Area Boy Scout Executive at Gastonia, which included six counties.

He was converted at about 16 years of age, and while working with the Boy Scouts felt God's Call to the ministry and went to Mars Hill College. (As the college BSU President he wrote the new students, and Miss Campbell, our Director of Missions, received a letter from him introducing her to the christian program opportunities on Mars Hill Campus at that time.) He had to drop out of Mars Hill

College due to illness for additional studies.

Pearl graduated and walked six miles to what is now known as Greensboro. She taught in Whitnel County — Whitnel and Kershaw Co. In

He began with many churches for 45 years, preach his first sermon, his last sermon at the

Churches he pastored Baptist Church, and Unity — Belmont, and Cedar Rock Baptist

Luther not only for the Lord in many was called on for baptism

Pearl was a wonderful by playing the piano Training, and Woman's Associational Training she was married. She Kershaw, S.C.

In every association in the Association Kershaw and Clerk have been active in association, and Luther presided at Shoals Baptist Church

Several young people special service under

The Hawkins identity life.

Miss Campbell, D states "they have been pastors in the Caldwell result of diabetes, blindness and other activities. They love the Lord with what Baptists are happy that they are Work among us."

Luther loves to la Quite a number of years