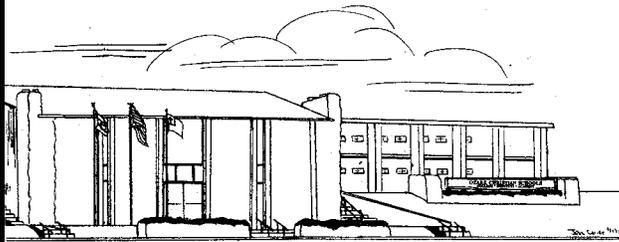


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Founder D. C. Branham

# The STANDARD BEARER

Vol. 42, No. 3

May/June 2011

*"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14).*

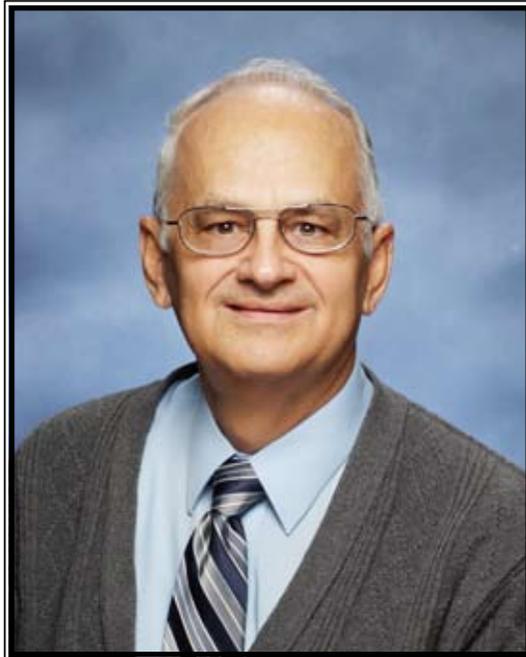
## Tributes To A Life Well-Lived ALEX MARSHALL STONER

### LITTLE IS MUCH WHEN GOD IS IN IT

*In the harvest field now ripened,  
There's a work for all to do,  
Hark, the voice of God is calling,  
To the harvest calling you.*

*Does the place you're called to labor  
Seem so small and little known?  
It is great if God is in it,  
And He'll not forget His own.*

*Are you laid aside from service,  
Body worn from toil and care?*



January 16, 1944 — February 22, 2011

*You can still be in the battle,  
In the sacred place of prayer.*

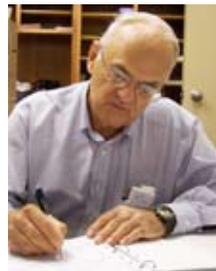
*When the conflict here is ended  
And our race on earth is run;  
He will say, if we are faithful,  
"Welcome home, my child, well  
done."*

— Chorus —

*Little is much when God is in it,  
Labor not for wealth or fame,  
There's a crown and you can win it,  
If you go in Jesus' name.*

By Mrs. F. W. Suffield

*Thanks Brother Stoner for  
living it straight!*



## Tributes To A Life Well-Lived

### ALEX MARSHALL STONER

#### WHEN A MAN OF GOD DIES

*The Funeral of Marshall Stoner*

*February 26, 2011*

*By President Daniel E. Taylor*

*“And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah. And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran”* (1 Samuel 25:1).

*“Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men”* (Psalm 12:1).

In my 30 plus years of ministry I’ve preached a little over 100 funerals, but of that 100 only a few have been preachers’ funerals. In each instance, when it has been a preacher’s funeral, I have preached from the same texts. That is First Samuel 25:1 and Psalm 12:1. The theme of each sermon is the same— **“WHEN A MAN OF GOD DIES.”** The messages are different because each man of God is different. The description—“peculiar people” as found in First Peter 2:9 applies especially to preachers. Preachers are all different—and Marshall Stoner was a man among men. In spiritual stature, he towered above most of us.

The text in First Samuel 25:1 is a brief account of the man of God’s funeral, and what happened when he died. The text in Psalm 12:1 is David’s reaction when he heard the news of Samuel (the man of God’s) death.

David no doubt thought a lot of Samuel as a person. But David’s words in Psalm 12:1 are not expressive of the grief of a friend over the loss of someone close to them. It is the grief of one serious- minded servant of God, as he contemplates the loss of an exceptional fellow laborer. **Notice how the Psalm begins—“Help, Lord.”** David realizes that there will be dangers that now exist, that had not been there while the man of God was yet alive. Just like Samuel, Brother Stoner’s gifts and godly presence brought stability to anything he put his hand on. Family, church, school, home.

But now he is gone—And our response should be—“*Help, Lord.*”

**Then the Psalm says, “For the godly man ceaseth.”** This means that the impact of his godly presence has ended with the cessation of his earthly life. His works will follow him and his reward will grow as those he influenced do more for the kingdom of God.

The actual blessings we received from his presence have ceased. He will not conduct the jail service, or play the guitar at nursing homes, speak at quiet time, lead the singing, or spend lunchtime in the prayer room.

Please don’t misunderstand me—Brother Stoner’s efforts to build the Kingdom will continue to bless us just like Bro. Branham’s has. But the comfort and guidance you received from his presence will only be there to the degree that you remember him. An often-asked question should be: “What would Daddy want me to do? What would Brother Stoner want me to do?”

**Then David said, “the faithful fail from among the children of men.”** This statement applies to all of us, but especially applies to the Bible school students, both past and present. Here is what David is saying: “There is one less truly faithful man among us!” This means that the ranks are diminished by Brother Stoner’s absence, and that because of the great man that he was, he has left a huge vacancy. His shoes can’t be filled, but the gap has to be filled or the battle line will fail. I told my brother Ken after Brother Stoner’s diagnosis that it would take ten people to fill Brother Stoner’s place—but it has to be filled.

#### REACTIONS TO THE DEATH OF A MAN OF GOD.

We need to remember not only that Psalm 12:1 describes how David was feeling because of the loss of the man of God, but also the words are actually a prayer “*Help, Lord.*” **So, the first thing we do when a man of God dies is pray—“Help, Lord.”** Help us to continue to serve You and go on after such a great loss.

**Another thing that happens when a man of God dies is that all whose life he touched grieve.** First Samuel 25:1, “*And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him.*” I grieve today because Brother Stoner was a pastor’s friend—and I’ll miss that. People so easily misunderstand the pastor and impute wrong motives to him that were not intended. But Brother Stoner remained always my friend. He and I worked together on a lot of administrative decisions. One day I was trying to explain why I was making an especially difficult decision in the way that I was, because most people don’t understand. Brother Stoner said, “Brother Taylor, you don’t have to explain to me—you’re my pastor, I know you are trying to do right.” I lament over the loss of a pastor’s friend.

I speak on behalf of this church and its ministry—**We** grieve at the loss of Brother Stoner. If you just say OBI—he is one of the first people you see in your mind. The Lord spoke this verse to my heart I Corinthians 12:26, “*And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it.*”

**The third thing that happens when a man of God dies, is we that are left behind must continue to advance the work that he gave his life to.** “*And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together... And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran*” (1 Samuel 25:1). Samuel’s funeral took place during the time David was fleeing from King Saul. So our text points out that while all the rest of Israel attended Samuel’s funeral, David couldn’t go because of Saul. So David

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Daniel E. Taylor, *Editor-in-Chief*

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# Tributes To A Life Well-Lived

## ALEX MARSHALL STONER

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went into a deserted place that was known as the wilderness of Paran.

It was probably during that time that David wrote the words I referred to in Psalm 12:1. You can tell from the Psalm's first verse that the shock of losing Samuel has left David wondering—"Lord, what am I going to do?" *"Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men."* David realized that he was going to have to get hold of his self, because the work of God must go on! He prayed *"Help, Lord."* And God answered by using David whose life had been so powerfully influenced by Samuel, to carry the vision on!

The power of Samuel's influence is underlined by the fact that though He died in First Samuel 25 and is only mentioned once more in chapter 28, yet there is an entire book of 24 chapters that is called Second Samuel. Why call it Second Samuel? He isn't even mentioned in it. Because his influence lived on in David!

Instead of Second Samuel, we are beginning the first chapter of Second Marshall. Brother Stoner is gone—but his influence remains as long as his memory lives in our heart.

### REMEMBRANCES OF A MAN OF GOD'S LIFE

**Marshall Stoner will live on in our memory, as an example of personal sacrifice for the work of God's sake.** It is fitting that so many have come to honor this great man of God. I think it is even a tribute to Brother Stoner's servant's heart that some should need to stand, and others sit in folding chairs. Brother Stoner lived a sacrificial life. He did not live unto himself—he looked not on his own things, but the things of others. Think of all the times that he inconvenienced himself for others. I've seen him work on vans, fill in at practicum, feed the homeless and take them to catch a bus to their hometown. He would spend time praying with people.

If this was someone else's funeral and Brother Stoner was sitting and I was standing by him—I know exactly what he

would do. He'd insist I sit down in his seat. So it is altogether fitting that we honor him by being inconvenienced for his sake. So you men on folding chairs on the platform, those in the overflow and aisle—God has blessed you to be inconvenienced in honor of a man of God that sacrificed his whole life for your Father's Kingdom.

**Not only will Brother Stoner live on as an example of a living sacrifice. He will also live in our memory as a model worshipper.** His motto at church was the same as the words of the old song—"I don't know what you came to do, but I came to praise the Lord!"

**Brother Stoner will live on in our memory as an example of faithfulness!** You could depend on Brother Stoner! If I ever had to be let down by the city wall in a basket like the Apostle Paul did—I would want a man like Brother Stoner holding the rope.

**He will live on in our memory as an example of thriftiness!** He could make one of God's dollars go as far as most people would make five. Many times Brother Stoner would tell me, "We (OBI) can make it off the little money we have if we avoid waste." The fact that this ministry has done what it's done with the little we've had is a tribute to the wisdom of this great man.

**Brother Stoner will live on in our memory as a model of humility.** If ever I knew a man that lived Paul's command in Philippians to, *"esteem others as better than themselves,"* it was Brother Stoner.

**Brother Stoner will live on in our memory as a model of compassion!** There were never any unimportant people in God's eyes, nor Brother Stoner's! From infants to the aged—red, yellow, black and white, they were all precious in his sight.

**Finally, when a man of God dies, as painful as it is for us to lose them, we must realize that they are now in heaven.** They are resting from their labors with kindred spirits that have gone on before. The verse says, *"...and buried him in his house at Ramah..."* This means they buried him with his

kinfolk in the family cemetery. But it reminds us that people that are of kindred spirits will one day meet together on Heaven's golden shore. As painful as it is to us that are alive and remain, especially those who were with him in his last hours, we must comfort ourselves in the reality that between a quarter till and ten minutes till 9:00 on Tuesday evening, Brother Stoner closed his eyes in this world and when he opened them he was in the Four Square City. As Eddie Godbey would say, 1,500 miles long!

From my knowledge of the Bible and Brother Stoner, I tried to imagine what his arrival was like when he entered the city of God. Here's how it came to me:

The angel at the gate said, "Welcome home, Marshall."

Brother Stoner said, "Well, thank you Gabriel. Oh, how did I know who you were?"

Gabriel said, "As soon as you entered the gate you knew us as well as we know you."

Brother Stoner said, "That sure makes it feel like home, not being in a strange place among strange people."

Gabriel then said, "Well, Marshall, you sung about it enough—'Everybody Will Be Happy Over There—Remember?'"

Brother Stoner said, "Yeah, I remember!"

Then Gabriel said, "How was your journey?"

Brother Stoner said, "I trusted the Lord, and my family did all they could to help me."

Gabriel said, "How do you feel now?"

Brother Stoner said, "I feel better than fine. Just like the song says, I beheld the glad dawn. I leaned on the Lord until eternity's morning broke, and I trusted until the night was gone. And thank God, here I am!"

Gabriel agreed, "Yes, thank God!" He went on to say, "Come over here, Marshall, you'll want to see this. This angel here is our recording angel. He oversees all the entries in this Book.

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## Tributes To A Life Well-Lived

### ALEX MARSHALL STONER

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Marshall, do you know what this book is?" Brother Stoner said, "Yes, I think so. It's the 'Book of Life.'"

Gabriel said, "That's right, Marshall. It's the Lambs Book of Life. The recorder is going to look up your name so that you can see it for yourself."

Then the recorder slides that golden ruler down the page. Brother Stoner sees some familiar names as the ruler passes by them. Bonnie M., Bonnie L., his dad, and then the ruler stops. The angel said, "Marshall, would you like to see it up close?" And there written in letters of gold underlined in blood red is the name—**Marshall Stoner**. Brother Stoner smiles and looking at the angel he points to the Book and says, "I promised the Lord I'd make Him a soldier if He wrote my name." The angel said, "You did it, Marshall, and you made the Lord a good soldier."

Brother Stoner said, "Can I see the Lord now?"

Gabriel said, "Sure, Marshall, you can see the King in His beauty. It's not very far off now."

They walk along a bit and Gabriel asked, "Tell me Marshall, is there

anything you want to say to the Lord?"

Brother Stoner said, "If I were to praise Him from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same I'd still be behind."

Gabriel said, "Well, the sun doesn't go up and down here. So you can praise Him all you want to."

Then Brother Stoner said, "It's not so much what I want to say to the Lord. It's that I wonder what He's going to say to me."

Then Gabriel spoke using the words of the old song Brother Stoner often led us in—"What do you want the Lord to say?"

Brother Stoner's face lit up, if you can imagine a glorified saint of God's countenance getting any brighter, and he finished the verse that answers that question. "Well done thou good and faithful servant, that's what I want the Lord to say!"

Then after Brother Stoner said this my imaginings of him getting to Heaven started to fade. And as they faded, the angel puts his arm around Brother Stoner as they walk to the Throne. Leaning in close, he says, "Marshall, I've been

escorting the saints around Heaven for a long time. And if that's what you want the Lord to say, well, knowing Him, and knowing you, trust me, you don't have a thing to worry about.

Now the question is, as you are approaching eternity, "Do you have anything to worry about?" Brother Stoner was a good man. He was all I said he was and more. But that's not why he is in Heaven now. He is in Heaven because he learned to trust in Jesus. Brother Stoner would lead us in the old song, "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus". At times Brother Stoner would say, "My pastor tells the story behind the writing of this song. I love to hear it. Why he could tell it right now and it would be alright with me." So I ended up telling this story a lot of times for Brother Stoner. Now I will tell it one last time for him.

And I did tell the story of how Louisa Stead wrote that grand old hymn—"Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus." As I told it one more time for my dear friend Brother Stoner, he was at that moment experiencing the sweetest part of trusting Jesus— Heaven!

## BLESSED MEMORIES

*By Editor Wallace E. Joice*

In Proverbs, chapter 10, verse 7, we read, "***The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.***" In the case of Brother Marshall Stoner and his family, my blessed memories go back more than four decades. I knew, not only him, but I also knew his father, Alex. We worked together on the schools. I had a very high opinion of him. He donated many hours of labor to Ozark Christian Schools.

I also know his mother. My wife and I, along with many others, celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday two years ago this coming July. She has lost her husband, a daughter, and now a son to the ravages of cancer. She has certainly been in our thoughts and prayers.

I have also known his sister, Bonnie Clayton, for many years. I appreciate that, through many difficult times, she

continues to faithfully serve the Lord.

Brother and Sister Stoner were married June 1, 1963. Had he lived until June the first, they would have been married 48 years. We were married the same year on March 16. We, of course, were a few years older than them. Especially remember her on their anniversary.

Brother Stoner was our daughter, Rebecca's, first principal at Ozark Christian Academy. Their daughter, Michelle, is a good friend.

It is kind of remarkable to me that Brother Stoner's mother was named Bonnie, his sister was named Bonnie, and he married a Bonnie! I could go on about the family for I know, love, and appreciate many more than I have named.

Focusing my thoughts on Brother Stoner, I think of his—

### I. SINCERITY

In all my dealings with him, I found

him to be utterly sincere. Never was there anything fake or fickle about him. Long before he became sick, I often remarked, "If ever a good man lived, Marshall Stoner is surely that man!"

Again, I think of his—

### II. SPIRITUALITY

In the various tributes given to Brother Stoner, many mentioned his prayer life, worship, singing, and preaching. Brother Stoner loved the Pentecostal moving of the Spirit. He loved it and lived in it.

Still further, I think of his—

### III. SENSITIVITY

Always, he endeavored to be sensitive to the feelings of others, and to the moving of the Spirit. He was one of the most sensitive men I ever met.

Yet again, I think of his—

### IV. SERVANT HOOD

Having come from an humble, hard-working background, I have always

*Continued on page 5*

# Tributes To A Life Well-Lived

## ALEX MARSHALL STONER

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found it difficult to appreciate anyone who was afraid to get their hands dirty! As you read the testimonials, you will find that Brother Stoner was willing to do anything that needed to be done.

Notice again, his—

### V. SOUL-WINNING

Testimony is given a number of times to the fact that Brother Stoner availed himself of every opportunity to speak to people about the Lord. The spiritual state of people was important to him. Surely, *“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise”* (Proverbs 11:31).

Again, note his—

### VI. SOLDIERSHIP

Brother Stoner served his country in Vietnam. He refused to bear arms against his fellow-man. However, he did not go to Canada, and he did not refuse to serve. Though he was a non-combatant, he did everything else he was told to do.

Brother Canter and others mentioned his spiritual soldiership. Surely, he bravely battled the world, the flesh and the devil. Surely, on rewarding day, he

heard the Lord’s *“well done.”*

Still further, consider his—

### VII. STEWARDSHIP

His official position was Business Office Manager. He considered it a stewardship. The Bible says, *“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful”* (1 Corinthians 4:2). As many have testified, Brother Stoner took his position seriously. He was *“found faithful.”*

Finally, ponder his—

### VIII. SUFFERING

I frankly confess to you that I don’t understand all I know. I don’t altogether understand why the righteous often have to suffer. Some of the godliest people I have ever known have been some of the greatest sufferers.

I know that some people have their little formulas, but I’ve lived long enough to know that their formulas don’t work for them, and they won’t work for you! The only kind of faith that will take you all the way through is Job’s faith, *“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him...”* (Job 13:15). Come what may, by His grace, I will stand

the test, *“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold”* (Job 23:10).

All the tributes to Brother Stoner are good. I did not disagree with any of them. However, in connection with suffering, please notice especially what Brother Pennington has to say.

In this issue, we have given tribute to a great man. As Brother Taylor observed, we have suffered a great loss. Please pray for the family, and the school.

How glad I am in times like these that I believe in immortality. How could we bear such a passing if we did not believe in “the life everlasting.” I do believe. With all my heart, I believe that someday, perhaps soon, we will again embrace those “we have loved awhile and lost.” The Savior’s own sure promise is, *“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”* (Jn. 14:2, 3).

## An Example of Faithfulness, Commitment and Sacrifice

By Gene Canter, Missions Director

Brother Marshall Stoner is a brother beloved. **When I think of him I think of his gentle, quiet spirit; a man clothed with humility and very unassuming in nature.** Yet when he stepped behind the pulpit he became a fire brand of spiritual energy.

Many years ago, when I was pastor at Arnold Assembly of God, Brother and Sister Stoner visited our church. I had been told that Brother

Stoner was a preacher so I asked him to minister in one of the services. His quiet, unassuming way had me thinking we would hear something of a testimonial, but when he began to preach it was with Holy Ghost anointing, enthusiasm, and power. I have been encouraged over and over again by Brother Stoner’s faith and consistency. Nearly every time, in years passed, when I had occasion to ask Brother Stoner, how are you doing? He would respond with the words, “By the grace of God, Brother Canter, by His grace.”

**Brother Stoner often led the song, “I promised the Lord I’d make Him a soldier.”** Like the apostle Paul, Brother Stoner *“fought a good fight,”* and *“kept the faith.”* Like Paul, he has joined his Captain in His heavenly headquarters.

**His faithfulness, commitment and sacrifice are examples for all the troops that follow in his steps.** I thank God for Brother Stoner; he is a man whose faith we can all follow, and whose memory will inspire us to press the battle to its successful conclusion.

## A God-Made Servant

By Mike Pennington

OBI Guatemala Field Director

A God-made servant... to supplement the deficit of Christ’s afflictions, by his personal suffering, for the sake of the body of Christ, the church ...to fulfill the Word of God. *(Personal paraphrase of Colossians 1:23e – 25.)*

When contemplating the inspiration generated by the life of a great man like Marshall Stoner, there are a lot of angles to look at to obtain a proper perspective of his influence in this world.

**One could consider the music of his soul as a source of inspiration.** He loved to sing for his Lord. Our earliest memories of this was in our Bible school days (1977-81), when Brother

and Sister Stoner would stand their daughter, Michelle, on a folding chair between them and sing specials in the services. His sensitivity to the Holy Spirit in over 20 years of leading the song services was continually apparent. I personally enjoyed playing music and singing with him in many jail services over the last seven years.

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## Tributes To A Life Well-Lived

### ALEX MARSHALL STONER

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**Then, Brother Stoner had a burden for people that overflowed in his association with everyone he met.** Whether you were a member or visitor at church, a student in school, a fellow-staff worker, or a prisoner in jail, he made you feel significant and respected, and always turned you in the direction of the Savior. He had a tactful, non-abrasive manner of conveying the truth that encouraged others to take necessary measures to improve their overall character. He was a humble servant of God, whose love for the Lord and His work were obvious to all who knew him.

**In his capacity as business manager, Brother Stoner was very diligent and methodical.** He would always search for the best value for the

dollar. (Buying airline tickets, renting cars, selling an old coin collection donated for missions, etc.). His resourcefulness, ingenuity, and tenacity have saved thousands of dollars over the years and qualify him, in my opinion, as a faithful steward of the Lord's money.

His dependence on God was evidenced many times as we knelt in his office praying for the finances to run the Bible school in Guatemala. **He trusted God from beginning to end of his disease for a miracle, which brings me to the most impressive inspiration that he was to me.** In my estimation, he has joined the ranks of many of God's choice servants who "fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ." While the sufferings of Christ lack nothing in atoning worth, God uses the

patient suffering of fellow Christians as a living example to us of His grace that is sufficient. (Philippians 1:29; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.)

Brother Stoner continued doing what he could, for as long as he could, without any inclination towards self pity, though he was in pain and discomfort a lot of the time. It was then, and will always be uplifting to remember his sterling faith in God's sovereignty. As the apostle Peter wrote, "let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator" (1 Peter 4:19). We thank God for the privilege of knowing and working with Brother Marshall Stoner. Please join us in prayer for his family and for the ministry that he loved so well.

### Educated, Inspired, Challenged, and Convicted

*By Micah Perry, OBI Instructor*

I started coming to Neosho in 1995, and it was somewhere around this time that I met Brother Stoner. For several years, I only had limited contact with him ( Camp Peniel , Decision Days, Convocation). It wasn't until I enrolled at OBI that I really got to know Brother Stoner, and through the years there has been an increasing appreciation for this man of God.

There are some specific things about him that I want to mention.

#### HE WAS A MAN

#### WHO OPERATED SERIOUSLY

A lifestyle of holiness (character, conduct, conversation) depicts that of Brother Stoner. He was a careful man with a healthy conscience.

#### HE WAS A MAN

#### WHO OFFERED SELFLESSLY

Meekness, humility, service, and sacrifice are all words that can describe

Brother Stoner. He was a strong man with a gentle spirit.

#### HE WAS A MAN

#### WHO OBEYED SPONTANEOUSLY

Sensitivity to the Spirit always accompanied Brother Stoner's approach to worship. He was a decisive man with an obedient heart.

I have been educated, inspired, challenged, and convicted by the life of Brother Marshall Stoner. His influence will continue to live on!

### I AM BLEST

*Dorothy Barnes, OBI Instructor*

Brother Stoner made a deep impression on me over the thirty- plus years that I knew him. **He was one of the kindest, meekest, most godly men I ever knew.** He was always concerned for others, whether they were his family, his pastor, a former student or someone he ministered to in jail. He always had a word of encouragement. **In all the years that I knew him, I never heard**

**him complain or say a negative word about anyone.**

One of the things that touched my heart deeply happened in the last few months of his battle with cancer. He had been unable to be in church for a while because of surgery and great pain. The first Sunday morning he was able to lead the song service he stood up there at the pulpit and began to sing the chorus:

*"I am blest, I am blest,  
Every day that I live, I am blest.*

*When I wake up in the morning,  
When I lay my head to rest,  
I am blest, I am blest."*

Tears began to fill my eyes as I felt the presence of the Lord touch my heart. Perhaps there was also some conviction. Here was a man who was suffering agonizing pain from cancer ravaging his physical body, yet he could from his heart sing of the blessings of the Lord which supersede these mortal bodies of ours. He has set an example for all of us.

### He Always Had Time To Help

*Edna L. White, Librarian*

**I could always call on Brother Stoner when something went wrong in the library.** My cranky electric typewriter was always needing attention. If I had a stopped up

toilet, a leaking pipe etc., Brother Stoner was always called first. If he couldn't fix it, he would get someone who could. **In the cold winter months, he would light the fireplace every day.** If time permitted, we would have a conversation on the world's problems, and

how Scriptures were being fulfilled for the soon return of Jesus. Or we would talk about our gardens, grandchildren, etc. **No matter how busy he was he always had time to stop and help you.**

We miss his smiling face and helpful ways.

# Tributes To A Life Well-Lived

## ALEX MARSHALL STONER

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### His Love For The Lord

*Kristina Ward, Business Office Manager*

The privilege of knowing and working directly with Brother Marshall Stoner is one I don't take lightly. The respect I have for him continues to grow every day. **He faithfully and cheerfully bore many responsibilities that most would grow weary to even think about doing.** He wasn't just the Finance Office manager, Sunday School Superintendent, Quiet Time leader, song leader, and Thursday and Sunday jail practicum leader. He was the one who made sure the vans were safe to drive. He made sure there was a warm fire for the students on the cold winter days. The things I have listed are just a sample of the many hats he wore throughout his years of service to OBI and Bible Holiness Assembly of God.

As amazing as he was at all the jobs he endeavored to do for the Lord, the above listed things aren't what stand out

the most to those who knew him. **His love for the Lord, and the resulting love for all people, is a key to what made Brother Marshall Stoner loved by all.** He treated everyone with great respect and made them feel important. He gave of himself and his time to make sure others knew that Jesus Christ loved them and made a way for their salvation. He cared about the souls of all he met. He wasn't just a Sunday Christian. He lived his life daily to be like Christ and to help build His Kingdom.

There were many times I heard him on the phone patiently dealing with salesmen, telemarketers and others just so that at the end he could then ask them a question. It always started with, "I hope you don't mind me asking you, and that it won't offend you." Then he went on to ask them if they had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He wasn't pushy and it was always in the meekest of ways

like only Brother Stoner could do. He would end with, "I would encourage you to find a good home church." He took every opportunity to reach out and give someone the opportunity to make a decision for Christ!

In reaching out for others, he always made time to pray for people. Often he would stop and pray for people whether they were on the phone or people coming into the office that had a need. He would say, "Sister Kristina, let's pray right now," and we would, and the presence of the Lord would come into the office. It was amazing to see the change that would come over people. All felt more peaceful after he prayed for them. As Brother Daniel Taylor often quotes, "Those who love you love you most when they pray." He showed his love through prayer. Knowing Brother Stoner, his most fervent prayer was that everyone would come to know his Savior too.

### Seeker—Servant—Singer

*By Jake Dillehay, Staff*

I thank God for the opportunity to know Brother Marshall Stoner. He had a great impact on my life.

**He was a seeker of the Savior.** The thing that I admired most about Brother Stoner was the many times that I saw him pray. He was always on his knees seeking God. Having the opportunity to get to work with Brother Stoner in the jail ministry, we would always meet before the services and would have a time of prayer before we left to go to the jail. Sometimes Brother Stoner would come in late. He would always apologize and go to the altar and pray. We were going to minister for the Lord, and we needed God to go with us. Brother Stoner was a man of prayer. As I sat there those times listening to Brother Stoner as he rang the bells of heaven interceding, praising

and thanking God, it touched my heart.

**Brother Stoner's prayer life was so important because he was servant of the Sovereign.** His life was dedicated to the work of God. He wanted to see people make it. Brother Stoner spent his life in service to the Lord., not just in ministry, but in the small things too. Brother Stoner would go out of his way to find you, and apologize if he ever wronged you or had a bad feeling toward you. He would wrap his arms around you and say, "I am sorry." He was an extremely humble man that loved people and wanted to walk righteously before the One that he served. Brother Stoner excelled in God's ministry as God's servant because of the heart he had that remembered even the small things.

**Brother Stoner was a singer of the sweet heavenly songs.** Never did

I hear Brother Stoner sing a song of "poor pitiful me," not even when he was battling cancer. It was songs like "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand," "I Would Not be Denied," and "There Is Power In the Blood." Brother Stoner touched so many lives because he sang of a God that is unchanging, he sang of a God that is worthy to be exalted, and he sang of a God who could change your situation.

**To all of Brother Stoner's friends and family, maybe you are wondering; how are we going to make it in the absence of Brother Stoner, this fine man of God?** We need to follow Brother Stoner's example, we need to seek Him early, often and late. We need to serve Him with all of our heart, and we need to sing the songs that bring glory unto His name. We can make it. We have been bought with a price. Our friend, Brother Stoner, made it!

### A Faithful Servant

*By Amanda Russell, OCA Teacher*

Brother Marshall Stoner was a man of God, the best song leader, and a faithful servant. As part of the alumni of Ozark Bible Institute and College, I had the privilege of knowing Brother Stoner

in many areas of ministry.

**As a student, I learned from him what it meant to have a burden for the lost and a heart for the ministry.** I remember times where he would witness to the delivery man or pray with someone over the phone. This helped me realize

that I need to take every opportunity to reach out to the people around me.

**Quiet times at OBI are another area where I was impacted by him.** He would preach the Word without reservation and cry out to the Lord for the students and *Continued on page 8*

## Tributes To A Life Well-Lived ALEX MARSHALL STONER

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their needs. Anyone will tell you that he loved and cared for the family of God.

Since becoming a teacher at OCA, I have witnessed His love for the Saviour in action from leading us in worship to reaching out to the men in Pineville jail and the congregation of Bible Holiness

### Till We Meet Again

#### *Randy Snow OBI Alumni President*

Some of my first memories of Brother Marshall Stoner were not too pleasant for me!! He was our principal at Ozark Christian Academy. Usually he was enforcing the rules, or as my dad calls it, "applying the board of education to the seat of learning." Brother Stoner always cried more than I did and while I was crying he was praying, "Lord, save this boy; help Him, Jesus!" His love for us was never in question. I still remember his leading of many C.A.

Assembly of God. **Many times as he was leading songs, Brother Stoner would remind me that we've got time to worship the Lord.** He would testify of how God was working in the lives of the prisoners, and this would move me to want to do more for the kingdom of God while there is still time. When he

services with his brown guitar, shouting and praising the King. I'll always remember his sacrifice of labor for the work of the Master, and he and Sister Stoner singing Mark the 13th chapter. He was one of the most humble men of God I've ever met. Many times I've heard him say while leading the singing, "If I've offended anybody I'm sorry" and things like "Two ponies will pull you out of any mud hole: the ponies of prayer and praise!"

As God led us into the pastoral ministry, Brother Stoner let me know he

was able to do the broadcast, he would encourage people in their walk with the Lord. He was determined to keep on fighting the good fight of faith and was a great example of a servant of God. **As of late, Brother Stoner showed me how a soldier of the cross should be faithful until the end.**

was proud of me and always appreciative of anything we did for the school. From principal to camp director to song leader to fellow staff at O.B.I. to friend: whatever the role, he was faithful.

I've honestly thought several times that Brother Stoner has already told the Apostle Peter, "Hold these mules while I shout awhile," only to turn around to Jesus and say, "If I get out of line tug on this robe and I'll sit down," to which the Saviour has responded like Brother Taylor: Shout on, Brother Stoner, take your liberty!



## CAMP PENIEL July 4 - 8, 2011 Ozark Bible Institute and College Campus



**Night Speaker  
Dennis Heath**



**Children's Workers  
Lonny & Lori Adams**



**AM Bible Teacher  
Dathan Tucker**

(For more information contact: OBI, PO Box 398, Neosho, MO 64850 or call 417-451-2057  
Camp Director Terry Miles 417-455-6310)