

Our purpose is to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints,” and to “prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

# OLD PATHS ADVOCATE

“To continue speaking the truth in love,” “endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace,” “keeping the ordinance as delivered.”

“Thus saith the Lord, ‘stand ye in the ways, and see and ask for the Old Paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest of your souls.’ (Jer. 6:16) “And they that be of Thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Paths to Dwell in.” (Isa. 58:12).

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## Johnny Elmore

November 28, 1931 - December 1, 2019

### WHAT DOES 1 TIM. 2:11-12 TEACH?

By JOHNNY ELMORE

For a good many years now, we have understood that 1 Tim. 2:11,12 forbids women teaching in an assembly of the church, including what some have called “Bible classes.” Quite clearly, this passage prohibits women being preachers or public teachers in the church, but is it not more inclusive as well? It would seem that some are of the persuasion that so long as the teaching is not in an assembly of the church, it is permitted. If true, women could teach or preach the Bible on the radio, on the street corner, in a restaurant or to a group of church members assembled for Bible study.

Paul wrote: “Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence” (1 Tim. 2:12). Here the apostle gave two negative commands concerning women. He used the word “silence” before the first

negative command, and he also used the word “silence” after the second negative command. He preceded the command, “But I suffer not a woman to teach” with the first use of the word “silence.” So, wherever 1 Tim. 2:11,12 applies, women must be in silence. They are to learn, not teach.

The second negative command, v. 12, is “Nor to usurp authority over the man.” This command is also followed by the word “silence.” To what does the second use of the word “silence” refer? Does it refer to teaching? No, Paul has already settled that with the first negative command. It refers to the second command, “Nor to usurp authority over the man.” Women must be silent in any activity that would involve exercising dominion over the man wherever this command applies. Therefore, any activity that would involve them in exercising dominion over men, such as leading prayers, singing, or presiding at the Lord’s table, must be avoided.

Some have tried to limit this teaching to the assembly however, Paul has in view “men praying everywhere” (vs 8) and then refer to women with the words “in like manner” (vs 9). Are we to understand that women are to dress modestly “with shamefacedness” and sobriety only in the assembly? And then are we to understand that women may teach or preach on the radio, on the street corner, to a group assembled for Bible study, or in a restaurant or some other public place, just so long as it is not in the assembly? Remember, if 1 Tim. 2:11,12 does not apply to these situations, 1 Cor. 14:34,35 will not prohibit it.

Ellicott comments on the Greek word for “learn,” *manthano*, and states that it is “in antithesis to *didasko*.” On the subject of Christianity changing the primal relationship of women to men, he also states: “While it animated and spiritualized their fellowship, it no less definitely assigned to them their respective spheres of action; teaching and preaching to men, ‘mental receptivity and activity in family life to women.’ Neander. *Planting*, Vol. I, p. 147 (Bohn). What grave arguments these few verses supply us with against some of the unnatural and unscriptural theories of modern times” (Ellicott, p. 52). Thus, the role

*continued on page 6*



**JOHNNY ELMORE**  
*By RONNY F. WADE*

I first met Johnny when I was seventeen years old. We were attending a debate in Oklahoma City where Ervin Waters was debating the cups question. We were staying in the McLemore home and each night while reliving the events of the evening we also engaged in small talk. It was here that we bonded. From that time forward we were close friends. He lived in Ardmore, OK and I resided in Ft. Worth, Texas. During the first few years after we became friends I often visited the Elmore Family in Ardmore on week-ends. Wayne Fussel lived in Wilson, OK just a few miles away, and we would all get together for a good visit. During that period our friendship continued to develop. Both of us were preaching as opportunity presented itself. Early on brother Joe Elmore, Johnny’s dad arranged for us to hold a meeting in Ardmore which gave encouragement to both of us. As the years passed we both married, had children and went our separate ways preaching, but we always stayed in touch. Every fourth of July or Labor Day meeting we were together visiting, laughing and having a good time. As the years passed we became even closer.

Johnny was a person who loved the church. He had a desire to preach and help the cause of Christ wherever he could. At times he lived in places and endured conditions most of us would have shunned. But because he wanted to preach he endured. Often leaving family behind he would hold more than one meeting just to financially make ends meet. Very few people really know how much he sacrificed to preach the gospel.

Johnny had a knowledge of the scriptures far beyond what most people realized. He was an avid reader and his ability to retain what he read was amazing. He could answer bible questions many people would shun. In normal conversation you would never know this for he was always very modest in

the way he dealt with people and the Scriptures.

In the declining years of our lives we called each other on a regular basis just to see how the other was doing. When I discovered that I had a life threatening illness he called even more often just to check on how I was doing. During the last few days of his life we talked even more frequently. Soon his physical problems seemed to grow more serious. I talked with him while he was in the hospital and he seemed to be doing well then unexpectedly came the end.

In Johnny Elmore the brotherhood has lost a treasure. One of the great musicians of all time, one of the great biblical repositories of our day, and major force for truth and right. God bless his memory.

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**JOHNNY ELMORE “A GOOD SOLDIER”****2 TIMOTHY 2:3***By DON L. KING*

I am not sure I can recall just when I first met Johnny Elmore. It seems I have always known and loved him. One of the earliest occasions was when I was a young boy. He and Lynwood came to Lebanon, Missouri where we lived out in the country. For some reason, perhaps to guide them, I rode the twelve miles from town with them in Johnny's 1949 Chevrolet to our old log house. I sat in the back and while driving on old route 66, Lynwood began holding an empty soda pop bottle out the window and letting the wind make it whistle. Somehow, he managed to catch a bee in it which was no problem until he brought the bottle back inside and a very angry bee managed to climb out. I don't remember anyone being stung, but things were pretty lively for a few minutes until it finally escaped out of the open window.

Johnny and I later spent a fair amount of time together both before and after I began preaching. His extensive Bible knowledge was a treasure to me and has been of tremendous help personally. He was a great preacher and his sermons were always interesting and edifying. I valued his advice about preaching and evangelistic work, which I often sought through the years. I'm going to miss that.

Pat and I stayed with Johnny and Sally in their home and they with us numerous times through the years. We sung together and even wrote some music a few times. Johnny was probably the greatest song leader I have ever known. He had an ability to get the utmost from an audience of singers. He was greatly bothered if someone missed their part in a song. One time, during a singing school he was teaching, I missed an eighth note during a song we were practicing. I sung it as a quarter note. After the second time I did so, he stopped the song, looked at me with an exasperated expression and said, "Don, I know you know what an eighth note is!"

After a lifetime of friendship, I suddenly realize that all simply cannot be said. We have truly lost a treasure among us. Johnny went where he was called, when he was called, and he and Sally tried to get along on what the brethren could pay him. There were times I know that was difficult. However, he was determined to preach; and he stayed with it, even when his health began to fail and a son, grandson and his wife Sally, had passed away. He preached in just about all situations: in gospel meetings, mission meetings in various places, on television, writing in religious journals such as the Old Paths Advocate where he served as an editor for many years until his passing, and even in foreign lands. They were always at the 4th of July meetings, New Year meetings, Labor Day meetings, singings in several states, etc. Johnny obviously loved the church and the truth. He gave all he had. To the family let me say: Johnny had been sick for a while and didn't feel well. That is all past now. He isn't sick anymore. He won't ever be sick again he is fine! Now, we look forward to a wonderful reunion on the shores of Glory Land.

**JOHNNY ELMORE, BIBLE SCHOLAR***By ALAN BONIFAY*

When Johnny died in the early morning hours of the Lord's day on December 1, 2019 the words of King David regarding the death of Abner struck home once more: "a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel." Johnny served God faithfully for over 75 years and exerted a powerful influence for good on the cause of Christ throughout his life. He was a good man devoted to his wife and family and friends. He was a great songwriter and song director. He was a faithful preacher of the gospel. He was a great student of the scriptures and built one of the finest personal libraries of his day. He was a great advocate and supporter and teacher of young men about the work of a preacher. He worked at his preaching and was always eager and willing to try some new approach to reach the lost as long as it could be proved to be a scriptural approach. But it was Johnny's scholarship in the scriptures that impressed me most.

About 25 years ago Johnny's mark as a true scholar was etched indelibly on my mind. Undoubtedly, by then he had long been such, but an incident imprinted that recognition in my mind and caused me to try to follow his example. Back then in the brotherhood we were arguing among ourselves about Bible translations. It was fashionable to criticize and abandon the old tried and true King James Version that had so eloquently served the English speaking world for nearly 400 years. Johnny, of course, was having none of such new-fangled ideas. That year at the Preachers' Study Johnny was assigned the topic of explaining the origin and history of the Textus Receptus, the Greek text behind the KJV. Johnny had approached this project with the avowed intent of demonstrating that the TR was and is the best Greek text available and thus the KJV is the best translation for every Bible student to use. The facts, however, would not support such a conclusion for a number of reasons. Johnny rose to the occasion by presenting and accepting the truth that the facts demanded. The TR has numerous problems and is not, in fact, the best Greek text to use for translation of God's Word. In his presentation Johnny defended the Textus Receptus where he could and he made crystal clear his preference for the KJV. Nevertheless, he allowed the facts of the case to control the outcome. To follow the facts wherever they lead is the mark of a true scholar of God's Word. Brother Elmore was such a scholar. That sterling quality is to be admired and emulated by all.

In Johnny's passing, we here on earth have lost a great man of God, and it will be grand to meet him in heaven again one day. One of his many spiritual legacies is that he trained many of us well and we need to follow him as he followed Christ. We need to have the same kind of love for the truth that Johnny had. We need to always be willing to yield to the facts of the truth; especially when they call on us to redirect our lives or adjust our teaching in order to be in line with the truth of God's Word.

## Our Departed

ELMORE - As another Lord's Day prepared to dawn on December 1, 2019, the angels of God descended and ushered the spirit of a great soldier of the cross to realms beyond. Johnny James Elmore was born November 28, 1931 at Zaneis, OK to parents Joe and Mollie Elmore. He was raised in a devout Christian home where the things of Christ were lived and taught. He obeyed the gospel in 1943 at his home church in Ardmore, OK under the preaching of Lynwood Smith. In 1950, Lynwood encouraged Johnny to devote his life to the preaching of the gospel and without hesitation, he left the field of secular work to enter the Master's harvest field. Putting his hand to the plough, he never looked back and faithfully preached the gospel for nearly 70 years until the time of his death. In 1954, he was married to Sally Word. Together, they reared three children, all of whom obeyed the gospel. In his long and far-reaching ministry, Johnny labored with churches in Springfield, MO; Ada, OK; Fort Worth, TX; Lebanon, MO; and Ardmore, OK. He conducted countless gospel meetings all across the United States and went to the foreign fields of South Africa and Honduras. Only eternity will reveal the fruit his work bore including baptizing hundreds; leading many in religious error to the truth; ordaining elders; training young men to preach; solemnizing marriage vows; and walking the last mile with numerous grieving families. His passion for singing and his education in music made him one of the most effective singing school teachers and song writers of our lifetimes. Though his body had begun to grow feeble, his mind and his ability were unabated as he was continuing to preach up until his death at age 88. He was preceded in death by his wife Sally; his son Stanley (also a gospel preacher); his oldest grandson, Jonathan; and all of his siblings. His daughters, Joni Elmore and Kim Kirksey survive along with a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. It was this writer's honor and privilege to conduct the service along with a touching written message from Bro. Ronny Wade who was originally asked to preach the funeral if his health had permitted. Bro. Mark Triplett did a worthy and masterful job conducting the rousing congregational singing, of which Johnny would have been proud. Bro. Clint De France assisted with beautiful prayers in the service and at the graveside. Bro. Elmore's remains are interred at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Ardmore where they await the final trumpet sound and rending of the skies on resurrection morning, an event he preached about with great anticipation for 70 years. — Kevin W. Presley

### JOHNNY ELMORE - A HERO OF THE FAITH

*By CLINTON DE FRANCE*

Johnny Elmore was a true evangelist. He dedicated his full life to preaching the gospel and all that he ever did otherwise was simply to facilitate his preaching. He preached in old schoolhouses and under brush-arbors; on radio, television, and webcast; all across the United States and far beyond its borders.

He never compromised his convictions and was still preaching unpopular truths when many others had laid them aside for convenience sake. He was mistreated, abandoned, abused, and maligned by many of his brethren and closest friends. He did what he believed was right, even when it wasn't politically wise and was often misunderstood for it. Yet he always loved the church and never gave up on anything that he saw could promote her edification. He would always attend the preacher studies, write for the OPA, participate in a debate or discussion, conduct singing schools -whatever he needed to do. Many people have allowed bitterness, weariness, jealousy, or some other like issue to keep them from one or more of these opportunities to do something valuable in the Kingdom. I pray we will follow the example of Johnny Elmore and sacrifice our personal issues on the altar of service to Christ.

He conducted and supported mission meetings wherever and whenever he could. He was a creative and adaptive sermonizer who made fresh and thrilling presentations that were extremely educational even up to just a short time before his death. He was dedicated to the training of young preachers and was responsible for many making it - including myself. There was no Bible question you could not ask him; he took it seriously and would study for an answer if he didn't have one.

The world changed so much during his lifetime, but he was creative. When he was 83 years old he was trying a new method of outreach in Ardmore that he had just learned about from reading an article. I know many preachers who have already given up before they were half his age - he never gave up.

He was not a perfect man, but he was a good man -most importantly he was a disciple of Christ. He was my hero. I loved him and I will miss him for the rest of my life.

### PASSING IT ON! - JOHNNY ELMORE

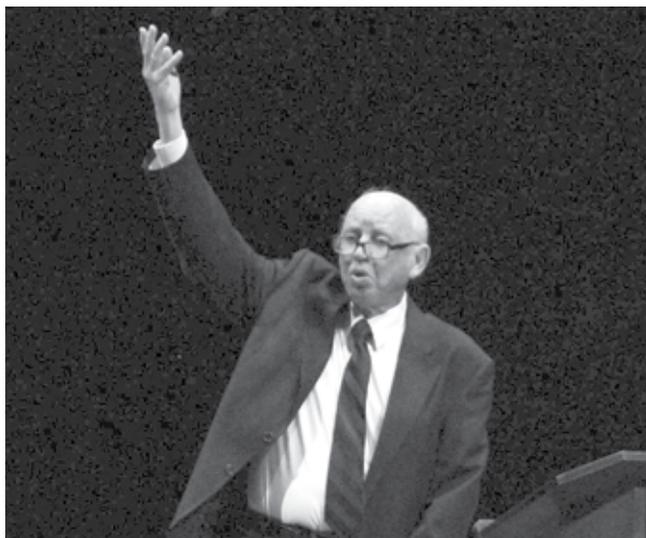
*By JERRY DICKINSON*

When I heard that Johnny had passed I immediately recalled the second Oklahoma New Year Meeting our family had ever attended. We came out of digression in 1967 when I was 17 years old and soon after taking our stand for scriptural worship Lynwood came and held a meeting in Houston. He told us about the Oklahoma New Year Meeting which was being held that year in Oklahoma, City. I think that was the first time I ever saw Johnny. Of course, he led the singing that ushered in the New Year of 1968. He stood alongside Lynwood as people would call out songs and then Johnny would lead as everyone sang from memory. It was the most beautiful singing I had ever heard! The New Year Meeting certainly made an impression on me and our whole family.

The next year the meeting was held in Ada and Johnny was in charge. Billy and I had both spoken with the young men the year before in Oklahoma City and we came prepared to

do the same in Ada. Johnny, however, told us he was going to use us in a morning service with other preachers. I remember he got up announced that there were two young men from Houston he wanted everyone to hear and he allowed us to preach that morning. I was 18 and Billy was 16, and his confidence in us was a boost to our morale and was an added incentive for us to pursue a career in preaching the gospel. I have often thought back to that morning service so long ago now, and it occurs to me that Johnny was passing on what had been passed on to him. Lynwood baptized Johnny and then encouraged him, as well as a host of other young men, to develop their talents in leading singing and preaching and Johnny was passing it on to Billy and I.

The New Year Meeting, after all, had been started to encourage young men and young people, and Johnny was interested in passing it on. He did the same his whole life. He was a great encourager of young preachers and his presence at the New Year Meeting and other similar meetings will be missed. What a void there will be when the new year is sung in! Let us, who are now older preachers, carry on Johnny's example and do all we can to encourage a new generation to carry forward the Lord's work. Let us, like Johnny Elmore, pass it on!



**ISRAEL'S SWEET SINGER**

*By KEVIN W. PRESLEY*

“Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.” (2 Samuel 23:1-2) These words were written by Samuel concerning the last days of the great king and singer of God's people. David, a lover of sacred music, provided the nation with many a song to sing and a legacy of leadership that would be looked up throughout their generations. Johnny Elmore was not a king, nor a man inspired of the Holy Spirit,

but he was an influential figure in our modern history. It is difficult to calculate the impact Johnny made upon the brotherhood because he contributed so many varied talents to the church over such a long period of time. He preached for nearly 70 years; taught churches to better their singing; wrote timeless hymns and spiritual songs; and provided an invaluable level of scholarship to the discourse of the church.

I, like many others, first came to know Johnny as a virtuoso song-leader. I vividly recall the first time I watched him conduct the midnight hymn singing at the Oklahoma New Year's Meeting with great amazement. He made us all want to sing. He became educated in music theory not only for his own personal enrichment but that he might devote himself to improving the singing of the church. Many were the times that M. Lynwood Smith would call him “our sweet singer of Israel.” It is hard to accept that this golden voice has been silenced by death but since word came of our beloved brother's passing, the song keeps coming to mind “What a song of delight in that city so bright will be wafted 'neath heaven's fair dome; How the ransomed will raise happy songs in His praise, when all of God's singers get home.”

Johnny was also the consummate preacher and bible teacher. The brotherhood is stronger because of his years of labor and influence. One of his great contributions was the training and encouragement of future generations of evangelists. Some of the most effective preachers among us, now older men themselves, learned at his feet. Always ready to answer a bible question or give requested counsel to others, he helped younger men learn how to study the scriptures and prepare themselves to do the work of the ministry. Johnny also had a passion for evangelism and missions that never waned. He helped ignite a flame of enthusiasm for soul winning in many a young preacher's heart. I will forever be thankful for the impact he made on my life; the encouragement he lent to me and others; and most of all the example of faithfulness that he left. May God bless his memory, and may God raise up more men like him in the Kingdom.

**TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY ELMORE**

*By MATT TRENT*

The wise man said, “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold” (Proverbs 22:1). These truths are realized when we hear the name Johnny Elmore. His good name is a testimony to the wisdom of his choices. He is a giant among us whose influence is vast and whose loss is felt widely among our people.

I don't remember ever not knowing Johnny Elmore. My family has been associated with the Elmore family, and Johnny in particular, for many years now. I had great-grandparents who loved Johnny and my children love Johnny. What a blessing he has been to our family! Like so many, my first memories of Johnny are of him leading singing at the Oklahoma New

Year's meeting. From the time I was 10 years old until I was in my twenties, I attended every Oklahoma New Year's meeting. I will forever remember seeing Johnny, Lynwood, and Ronny standing on stage together as one year ended and another began. There was something reassuring in knowing we had such respectable and capable men of influence among us.

As I got older, my desire to preach grew. In the summer of 1993, I turned sixteen and the congregation I attended at the time (Sanger, CA) was preparing to host the annual California Labor Day meeting. They invited Johnny to come help the congregation in this endeavor. This invitation gave me the chance to spend a memorable summer working with Johnny. As I look back on it now, it must have been a bit of a challenging time for him and for his family. Following the fourth of July meeting in Missouri, Johnny moved back to Ardmore, Oklahoma, then immediately left to help the church in California. I can only imagine what it must have been like to move home and then leave again so quickly to go preach in a distant place. These are the kinds of things Johnny did for the church his entire adult life. Once we arrived in California, Johnny worked hard to help the congregation prepare for the meeting. One of our main projects was going door to door in the town of Sanger inviting people to attend the meeting and to sign up for a Bible correspondence course. During these times together, Johnny taught me about the Bible, about relating to people, about the work of the church, and also about funny things that had happened over the years. I loved learning from him and laughing with him. What an amazing opportunity! I was also very impressed by Johnny's preaching. His sermons had a depth that inspired me to try to study more. During this summer, Johnny also had a singing school with the congregation. He loved music and loved sharing his knowledge of music with others. He encouraged all, young and old, to learn to sing for the Lord.

In the summer of 1996, I was able to spend a second summer with Johnny, this time in Ardmore. During our time in Ardmore, I was able to be around the work Johnny had been doing for years. I was impressed by the respect the brethren had for Johnny, by the warm welcomes he received when we went visiting, and by the excellent singing in the congregation. One of the greatest privileges of this summer was having my own key to the house next to the church where Johnny had his library. Having access to Johnny's books was amazing. I loved being able to go in and explore. The best times in that house were when I was able to meet Johnny there and I could learn about the various books from Johnny himself. I also loved being around the Johnny Elmore family. They were so fun and welcoming. Johnny's love for all of them was easy to spot, even when they were "discussing" things a bit. Of course, I also loved being around the music. I loved singing with Johnny, listening to him play the piano, and learning about the songs he had written over the years.

After this summer, I was able to continue learning from Johnny over the years through visits, phone calls, and seeing him at meetings and such. Although I did not get to

have extended periods of time with him, I seemed to learn something new every time I was with him. The longer I attempt to preach, the more I appreciate who Johnny was and how he carried out the work of the Lord. Johnny was knowledgeable, humble, dignified, kind, conservative, loving and firm in his convictions. In short, he was a good man. I am thankful for my time with him and will always consider it an honor to be able call him a mentor.

*WHAT DOES 1 TIM....continued from page one*

of the woman is "in antithesis to" or in contrast to being a teacher. Thayer defines didasko as "to hold discourse with others in order to instruct them, deliver didactic discourses," while manthano is defined as "to learn, be appraised." Ellicott also says, "Every form of public address or teaching is clearly forbidden as at variance with woman's proper duties and destination" (Ibid.)

Alford states on I Tim. 2:11-12, "Let a woman learn (in the congregation, and everywhere: see below) in silence in all (possible) subjection (the thought of the public assemblies has evidently given rise to the precept (see I Cor. xiv. 34); but he carries it further than can be applied to them in the next verse): but (the contrast is to a suppressed hypothesis of a claim to do that which is forbidden: cf. a similar de, I Cor. xi 16) to a woman I permit not to teach (in the church (primarily), or as the contest shews, anywhere else..." (Alford, p. 319).

Think about the outstanding characteristics of Bible classes and Sunday school, and then think of what we have when Bible studies, closely resembling church assemblies, are arranged by the leadership of the church and all of a certain age or class are invited and it becomes a platform for women to do some teaching. The supposed "desire for teaching" becomes a forum for these women to air their views and "show off" their Bible knowledge. Think about this, brethren! If we can have a young people's group in a home or somewhere else, can we have an old people's group and a ladies' group simultaneously across town, with women doing some of the teaching? If not, why not? And if we can meet at 7:30 Friday evening, could we meet at 9:30 Sunday morning? Surely, we could! And if our houses "joined hard" (next door) to the church meeting house, could we still have our meetings? If so, would someone please explain to me the difference in that and Bible classes, aka Sunday school? Surely the fact that the Bible classes are in a building owned by the church does not make the difference. Surely what Paul is forbidding is women leaving their God-given roles and trying to occupy the role of men.

Inconsistency of practice and a desire for a broader fellowship (perhaps) have caused the old anti-Sunday school, individual cups brethren to start referring to themselves as "non-Sunday school." In other words, they are no longer opposed to Sunday school, they simply don't have it. Of course, some have completely capitulated and have women doing things reserved exclusively for men, such as serving

the communion. Let us be careful that we do not go beyond the limits of the ‘New Testament and abandon the ground that our predecessors fought so hard to gain. Remember 2 John 8, “Look to yourselves, that we lost not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.”

**JOHNNY ELMORE:  
MASTER OF SERMON AND SONG**

*By BILLY D. DICKINSON*

When I lived in Davis, OK from 1974 to January of 1977, that is when I had the opportunity to really get to know Johnny Elmore. As a young preacher just starting out, what a blessing it was to associate with and observe this dedicated and talented preacher of the gospel! He graciously gave me my first exposure of taking part in a television program, one that involved a special format where I read a list of questions sent in by viewers, and he gave a Biblical answer to each of them. Johnny was a Bible scholar in his own right, a man who was deeply convicted in upholding the truth, and I watched him as he answered those questions with clarity and persuasiveness. He was, indeed, a respected and influential preacher among us for many years!

However, it was in the area of music and song that he gained the reputation of being one of the best song leaders we will ever see in our brotherhood; perhaps the best--ever! Lynwood Smith (who published 20 hymnals and numerous other songbooks) once said something to the effect that Johnny, in his opinion, was the best song leader since King David. Those who had the experience of watching Johnny lead the singing at the midnight service of the Oklahoma New Year Meeting, as he did for many years, understand why Lynwood was impressed enough to use such hyperbolic language. As we think back upon his life, let's be thankful for Johnny's special ability and that he was willing to use it to the glory of God. It is my hope to see our dear brother again "in the resurrection at the last day" (John 11:24) and to join our voices together again in worship around the throne of God. May the Lord hasten that day!

**REMEMBERING JOHNNY**

*By PAUL O. NICHOLS*

One by one we are losing our older preachers who have fought through the years to hold the line against digression and all departures from the Truth. We have been challenged time to time again because of our determination to have a thus saith the Lord for our faith and practice. And we have met those challenges and have encouraged our younger men who aspired to preach. I knew Johnny from the time he was in his teens and I was a young preacher myself. I was a guest in the home of Johnny's parents, and appreciated their hospitality. Recently we lost Barney Owens, another of our preachers who had endeavored to uphold the truth. Little by little we are having to say "Good bye" to the preachers who

have spent their lifetime demanding Scripture for our faith and practice, and we have met the challenges in public debate time and time again. Johnny was one of those men who spent his life preaching the Gospel and with his musical talent made it possible for him to write Gospel music which is sung by worshipers all over the faithful brotherhood. Sometime ago Johnny was in a meeting at Harrison, MO, and we took the opportunity to see him and hear him preach one more time. Pictures were taken of us together and they will act as a memorial of our brother. Wait there in Paradise Johnny for our coming. It will not be long until some of the rest of us will be paying the debt to nature and joining you, to await the Judgment Day of our Lord and our final reward.

**JOHNNY ELMORE**

*By MELVIN BLALOCK*

I have been acquainted with Johnny Elmore for over fifty years. After my wife, Alberta and I had just married we moved to Fort Worth, Texas in 1969. Johnny, Sally, and children were living there and working with the Trentman Ave. Congregation in S.E. Fort Worth. We attended church with them regularly for the next two years. We had the privilege of hearing Johnny preach many times during that time period. We were glad to be able to become better acquainted with them and to learn from our association with Johnny. I will always appreciate Johnny for helping me get started in the Amarillo work. The Trentman congregation showed an interest in that work when I suggested it to them. Johnny, as the evangelist with that congregation, accompanied me to Amarillo to look into beginning that work. His advice, experience, and encouragement was invaluable. After our trip to Amarillo, we decided to be begin that work. Johnny was an encourager to a lot of young aspiring evangelists over the years, and I was blessed by his friendship and encouragement as well. We have lost a great man, but his legacy lives on.

**FAREWELL TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY ELMORE  
AN ADMIRABLE MAN**

*By DON McCORD*

“An Admirable Man -- If a man is honest with others and himself; if he receives gratefully and gives quietly; if he is gentle enough to feel, and strong enough to show his feelings; if he is slow to see the faults of others, but quick to discover their goodness; if he is cheerful in difficult times and modest in success; if he does his best to be true to his beliefs, then he is truly an admirable man”. — Author unknown

“Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for awhile and leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never ever the same”. —Flavia Weedn

We will meet again, my Brother; until then, farewell, ‘til the eternal morning breaks and the shadows flee away.

### TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY ELMORE

*By GREG GAY*

I dug through past issues of the OPA to see Johnny's name again and again as he worked in the brotherhood traveling constantly to hold and attend meetings, conduct funerals, perform weddings, and conduct singing schools. The July 1954 issue has the report from Lynwood Smith of being the officiant at Johnny and Sally's wedding. Lynwood described Johnny as "one of our best preachers and singers of the Gospel" and Sally as "a fine Christian girl." Johnny's field report in the April 1955 issue lists his address as Houston, MO and says "We began the mission work in MO, Mar. 1, starting at Houston. We have contacted several outsiders, and yesterday had some of them present at both services. We believe this will be a fruitful field for the Lord's work." During Johnny's work there, among the people he baptized was my father-in-law, Ervin Baker. He, at 92 remembers Johnny fondly and is very thankful for his work. Ervin recalls Johnny was supported \$125 per month during this time (about \$1,200 in today's \$'s) and that he and Sally lived with their new baby Joni in an apartment in the church basement that flooded when it rained. He told about the time Johnny put his feet down from the bed to get up and was in six inches of water.

In Johnny's field report dated January 1956, he said, "We attended part of the New Year meeting at Ada, Okla. Every service was inspiring. We closed the old year and began the new in a wonderful way, by singing grand old hymns and offering prayer." Singing at the midnight hour at the Oklahoma New Year's Meeting is a tradition that may have started before this but has certainly continued long after." Miles King's report of January 1967 says, "As we approached the New Year, at the midnight hour ... Johnny Elmore led that beautiful old song, Rock of Ages, then a few moments of quiet meditation, after which Bro. Tom Smith stepped forward and led us in prayer."

The May 1984 issue of the OPA announced three new editors being added: Johnny Elmore, Bennie Cryer, and Barney Owens. Don King described them as "being respected throughout the entire brotherhood as godly and talented men." Johnny was the last of this trio to pass away and we miss them all dearly. Future generations of God's people will hear them mentioned by those of us who knew and loved them and should feel a great sense of loss they did not have an opportunity to know these great men of God.

### JOHNNY ELMORE: A FRIEND LATER IN LIFE

*By RICK MARTIN*

Johnny Elmore was the same age as my parents. All my life I had heard and known about him. As I got older and began to attend some of the big meetings, I would see Johnny. We of course would speak with each other and maybe have a short conversation. It really wasn't until later in life that he and I developed a friendship.

Johnny and I had some commonality in our friendships. The biggest one was our friendship with the late M. Lynwood Smith. Much of the things I knew about Johnny came from Lynwood and even though we did not spend much time together, I felt like I knew a lot about Johnny.

A few years ago, Johnny began to attend the annual August singings in Marietta. This is when I really got to know Johnny. He was a welcome addition to the singings because of his tremendous knowledge about music and his great song-leading ability. He was a gracious guest in our home and we always enjoyed his stay. As you can imagine our conversations often focused on Lynwood and some of great times we had had with him. We would swap stories and laugh and carry on over some of the exploits. I enjoyed my conversations with Johnny when we would call and talk to each other.

The loss of Johnny is a great blow to the church. He will be missed because of his music and preaching ability. He was a great Bible student and likes of a man like this does not come along very often.

### JOHNNY ELMORE:

*By DON PRUITT*

It was Memorial Day.

On a sunny December day in southern Oklahoma, a large group of saints came together to bring Johnny "Sunny Boy" Elmore's body to rest in Ardmore. He was born in Carter county and he died there. It may sound like he did not go far, but he traveled all over our nation and into other parts of the world preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. Brother Kevin Presley masterfully led us all down the significant path of Johnny's life. The path was long and memorable. He was a man of faith. He loved it, lived it, preached it, and defended it for seventy years. His talent was unique. His sermons were delivered in a way that everyone could understand them, yet they were profound. He was a disciplined student of Scripture. One of our best. He was a genius in worshipful songs. Johnny was quiet about what he accomplished. He was content to let the Lord be his judge. He was genuine and kind. When you talked with him, he would look at you in your eyes, listen well, and always ask you about you and yours. As we gathered near the grave site, it appeared normal in size, but we knew it was a giant of a man who was laid there.

It was Veteran's Day.

This man of God was a warrior. He fought the "good fight of faith, so he might lay hold on eternal life." He clothed himself in the christian armor. From the helmet of his salvation to his feet shod with the gospel of peace, he was totally committed to the work and cause of Christ. He was a good soldier. Jesus told the church in Sardis "to be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."

It was Thanksgiving.

Thank God for the hope that is in Christ Jesus. Thank God for the sacrifice of His only begotten Son. Thank God for the life and lessons of Johnny Elmore.



**JOHNNY ELMORE:**  
*By SHAHE GERGIAN*

I first became acquainted with brother Johnny the same way many others did. I heard him lead singing. I was able to make the trek from California to the OKC New Year’s meeting only one time as a teenager but the impression men like Lynwood and Johnny made on me still resounds to this day. I had never seen anyone command a crowd in song like Johnny did. It was majestic, powerful, and inspirational all at the same time. Johnny made me want to be a song leader which was something I was still very hesitant to do as a young man.

Johnny and Sally came to hold a meeting at the Planz Road congregation in Bakersfield, CA when I was in my early 20’s. They sat right in front of me the entire meeting which terrified me. The thought of them listening to me sing all week was almost overwhelming at first, but it turned into one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life as we talked about music and songs almost every night.

In recent years, Johnny has been one of the exemplary speakers at the Mid-MO Study hosted by the Rice Road congregation in Columbia, MO. He masterfully addressed topics including the Open Fellowship controversy, whether or not there are saved people in denominations, and the Biblical pattern for training preachers (all of which can be found at christianlandmark.com). He spent many hours in our home talking about the Bible, music, and so much more. We always knew when Johnny was coming over, laughter would inevitably ensue, and it surely did. It was very hard being out of the country and missing his funeral. I’ve heard the singing was fantastic and I cannot think of a better tribute to a great man who will be dearly missed.

**JOHNNY ELMORE**  
*By MATTHEW BARNES*

I knew Johnny all my life, others knew him for many more years, but it was enough for me. I was fortunate to grow up knowing Johnny and he always treated me like family.

That extended to the family I came to have myself. Johnny officiated my wedding to Amber (Gorrell) Barnes and he also loved to see our daughter Hazel. Johnny loved young people. He loved to tell them stories, to share his wisdom with them, and to teach them. He taught me about tuning forks, music, gardening, how to tie a tie, and so much more. Even when he wasn’t teaching me directly by his words, he taught me how to treat others, how to love your family, and how to be a Godly man of faith. He showed me what it means to love the brotherhood and to love Christ. I wish I could recall all the stories he told me of brothers and sisters now gone who I never knew. Somehow, he made me feel like they were all my friends too.

Johnny and Sally opened their home to me during the years when Sally’s health was on the decline. They had me visit every week for at least three hours on Friday nights and many times Johnny didn’t want to let me go on home. I always felt welcome there. Johnny took the time to build me up in the faith when I came asking for help. No questions asked. I wasn’t maturing as a Christian and hadn’t been for some time. Johnny took me under his wing and taught me the fundamentals of the faith. He showed me how to study the scriptures and never once criticized me for the time I had wasted and lost. He left me with a love for singing, an unyielding desire to preach the Gospel, a love for Christ and His people, and an earnest longing to see him and all those gone before in the gleaming, glorious city of God.

**JOHNNY ELMORE**  
*By BRETT HICKEY*

I was sorry to hear the news of brother Johnny Elmore’s passing. I was surprised to learn he recently celebrated his 88th birthday. He made the most of his lengthy life influencing many for Christ.

My dad did not grow up in the church of Christ. A member of the church at Covina named Bud Hash had terminal cancer and talked with everyone on the Southern Pacific railroad about the gospel. He argued with dad about religion for an extended period of time and after great urging talked dad into attending a series of gospel meetings in the early 60s. Brother Johnny was doing the preaching. Instead of arguing, dad listened to the simple, straightforward preaching of the gospel and became increasingly convinced of the truth. He obeyed the gospel the third service of the meeting, stunned at how much he had learned. Not long afterwards, dad determined that he wanted to become a preacher of the gospel.

Brother Johnny impacted me directly also. Fresh out of high school, I joined 15-20 preachers and preacher-wannabe brothers for a door to door evangelistic campaign in Paris, Texas. Brother Johnny Elmore was holding the series of gospel meetings and leading the way in the effort. I was impressed that this influential evangelist was willing to get in the trenches to make sure the community knew the congregation existed, cared for their spiritual welfare, and

were in their neighborhood to offer them a Bible study and personal invitation to the meeting.

Brother Johnny influenced so many in so many ways. I appreciated his calm, gentle, unflappable spirit.

Like everyone else, he influenced our family in the realm of gospel music. I remember on one occasion that his name came up when Joey was about age 6 and Serena about 4. Serena asked, "Who's Johnny Elmore?" Joey exclaimed in disbelief, "What? You don't know who Johnny Elmore is?! Everybody knows Johnny Elmore." Joey went on to explain about his preaching but even more so his song leading.

I'm thankful our lives intersected and look forward to meeting again.

### **MY FRIEND, JOHNNY ELMORE**

*By WAYNE FUSSELL*

My relationship with Johnny goes back 70 years. I was 15 when we first met. We were raised 18 miles apart and had many good experiences together. We traveled together, preached together, held meetings together, and enjoyed a close friendship all those years. I told Joni that I called him recently to ask if he had heard from Ronny, and he told me that he was having problems with his eyes. As we were ending our very pleasant conversation, I told him that I wanted him to know that I loved him. He quickly replied, "I love you, too, Wayne". Emotion swells up in my heart as I write these words. How rich I am to have had a friend like Johnny Elmore! I will miss stopping on my way through Ardmore to visit with him, and exchanging texts and phone calls.

Johnny and I were reared under the tutelage of Lynwood Smith. Lynwood taught us commitment -preach whether they pay you or not. He and I started out to preach along with about 40 young men -most of whom have continued to preach, and some have gone on to be with the Lord. Lynwood's teaching of commitment has been a guiding principle through our lives. Johnny and I were sitting with several other preachers one Wednesday evening in Ardmore. Each was asked to preach, and each declined. Johnny and I made a pact that night that we would be prepared to preach whenever asked. Johnny was one of the finest preachers in our brotherhood. He loved the word of God, and he knew it well. He was dedicated to truth, and he preached it with eloquence. Our brotherhood will miss him and his kind. Young preacher, you would do well to follow his example.

### **TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY ELMORE**

*By DAVID GRIFFIN*

I first came to know Johnny Elmore in 1989. In July of that year, I began my first efforts as a full-time preacher. I moved from Springfield, MO to Eldon, MO, where a new

congregation had recently been established. Johnny had been involved in establishing that congregation. At the time, he lived in Lebanon, about 50 miles from Eldon.

When I became involved in the work, Johnny regularly drove up from Lebanon and he and I did a great deal of visiting around the Eldon area and Miller county. Together we ran leads from the television program and leads that were generated through contacts in the congregation.

As a young man, I was impressed with Johnny's winsome manner with people we met. He just seemed to have a way of connecting with people. Each visit at one home seemed to generate a potential contact with another home. On a humorous note, Johnny was the face on the television program, and I think a lot of people were just excited to see a "celebrity" on their doorstep! He and I spent hours together in his little pickup during which we had much time to visit. He always had excellent advice (and warnings!) about the work. During those "tours" around the countryside, I also learned a lot from Johnny about how to buy good books that a preacher needs in his library. Mostly, I came to have a great admiration for Johnny's knowledge of the Scriptures. None among us has reached higher! Johnny's example, advice, knowledge, and love of the kingdom will remain with me, just like the memories with him and Sally and family during those years they lived in Lebanon.

### **TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY ELMORE**

*By LARRY COMBS*

Over the years I have been blessed to receive advice, admonition and encouragement from a number of individuals, however, there are three that stand out in my memory, three, that I will never be able to turn to again. Edwin Morris, my mentor; Barney Owens; and now Johnny Elmore. With the exception of Edwin Morris, Brenda and I were privileged to have Barney and Bea and Johnny and Sally stay in our homes on a number of occasions. It was truly a blessing to be able to sit with them and listen to their stories, seek their advice or talk about the Lord's church. Although I hadn't talked with him for quite some time, I always knew that if I ever needed advice, information, or even book recommendations, all I had to do was contact Johnny and he would always be there.

I am reminded of a time, not too long before Sally's passing, that Brenda and I had spent a few hours with Johnny and Sally at their home. Of course we had spent time with them in our home on several occasions, but, this was the first and only time we were visitors in their home. The thing that was very evident and impressive was the love, companionship, and respect that both had for each other. It was very encouraging to Brenda and me to see these two fine examples of Christians who had given so much of their lives to the cause of Christ.

As everyone knows, Johnny loved to sing, and he was always in his element while preaching or leading songs. Several years

ago at the Oklahoma New Year's meeting, Johnny was the final speaker and was to extend the invitation. I was asked to select and lead the invitation song. I was somewhat nervous about doing so, not wanting to mess up because of the event and because this was Johnny that I would be standing beside. I started the song as soon as I stepped up on the podium, no pitching or hesitation whatsoever. Afterwards, he walked over to me and commended me for doing so, saying that when the time for the invitation came, it should be started promptly.

As with all of those soldiers of the cross who have passed on to their eternal glory, Johnny will be missed by many, but he will not be forgotten whenever God's children are gathered together to sing praises to our God and Father in heaven.

### TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY ELMORE

*By CARL M. JOHNSON*

Johnny lived in Ada from the time I was 11 years old until I was 18 years old. He was my first mentor and he had an incalculable impact upon my life. When I was a teenager he encouraged me to begin reading Scripture in the public assemblies and to prepare and give lessons. He taught us the rudiments of music, how to lead singing, and how to sing shaped notes. We had a large congregation and usually had to set out folding chairs at the back of the auditorium on Lord's Day morning. We teenagers sat in 8 or 10 of the chairs. We would scoot them out and lean back against the wall. We were not always as reverent as we should have been, but Johnny was patient with us when he was in the pulpit. I know that on occasion, however, we were a distraction to him. A few years ago I said to him, "You know Johnny, regardless of how old you and I get, sometimes when I am with you I still feel as though I am an adolescent." He snorted and said, "Yeah, and you act like it too!" He exercised wit, humor, and laser-like sarcasm with the best of them! I have never liked my middle name very much and few people know what it is, but Johnny delighted in calling out to me in front of others while snickering, "Hey, Carl MELVIN!! How you doing?" The bond we developed during my adolescence lasted until his death. We shared many passions, including Oklahoma Sooners football, church history, books, collectibles, preaching, and gospel music. I have hanging in my office the original handwritten copy of "A Part of God's Great Plan," composed by Johnny and Lynwood Smith. It remains priceless to me. I always looked forward each year to his leading the singing and the climatic "Rock of Ages" at the midnight service of the Oklahoma New Year Meeting. The last time I saw Johnny was the night we both preached at the 2019 Texas Labor Day Meeting. Afterwards, I hugged his neck, told him I was honored to have shared the pulpit with him, and I told him goodbye. I had no idea at the time that would be our last goodbye, but I am so thankful now that we got the chance to say it.

### REMEMBERING JOHNNY ELMORE

*By GEORGE BATTEY*

With the passing of Brother Johnny Elmore, the brotherhood comes one step closer to the passing of an entire generation of preachers to whom we looked for guidance through the decades of the seventies, eighties, nineties, and the first two decades of the new millennium. While we looked to these men for guidance, really we were looking to the scriptures, for we "followed them as they followed Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1), and with Brother Johnny that was ultimately what we were doing—we were following Christ when we followed him. Some proved to be unfaithful and left the church, but Brother Johnny ended his race where he started faithful in the Lord's church. There was never any doubt of where he stood. Some in his own family proved to be unfaithful, but to my knowledge, Brother Johnny never lowered any standards to accommodate or excuse the wayward. He loved the Lord "more than father or mother and more than son or daughter" (Matthew 10:37).

Brother Johnny was a true scholar. He had a great personal library and he had read a great portion of it. I remember his preaching as being Christ-centered and scripture-centered. He preached doctrinal sermons and very often would list common objections with scriptural responses to those objections. When he was finished preaching, we were ready to defend the faith on that particular subject that he just covered. His preaching taught us to love the Lord with our minds as well as with our hearts (Matthew 22:37).

In the mid and late eighties, Brother Johnny led several groups of young preachers on door-to-door campaigns trying to evangelize the lost. In Corsicana, Plainview, and Paris Texas I was privileged to participate in these campaigns. On one occasion, as everyone was paired up for the day, Brother Johnny paired up with me. I remember coming to one door with a Baptist lady unwilling to study the Bible with us, but she was concerned about her neighbor. "You need to go talk to them—they're Jehovah's Witnesses," she told us. Brother Johnny responded, "Yes, we'll talk to them, but you need to realize that it's possible to be lost in other churches as well." She frowned and shut her door. At another door a man arrogantly held up his hand to stop us from talking. He said, "I just go by the ten commandments; that's good enough for me." Brother Johnny piped up, "Can you name the ten commandments?" It turned out to be an embarrassing question, for the gentleman could not name the commandments he claimed to be following. Brother Johnny asked, "If you're going to go by the ten commandments, shouldn't you be able to enumerate them and tell others what they are?" What Brother Johnny taught me that day was the art of "putting a stone in the shoe" of people we met.

I am thankful to have known Brother Johnny and to have listened to him preach through the years. Our brotherhood is richer because of his contribution to our faith.

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**EARLY MEMORIES OF JOHNNY ELMORE**

*By TED M. WARWICK*

A few moments ago Jan and I arrived home from the Griffin Hillcrest funeral home in Ardmore, Oklahoma where hundreds gathered to pay their respect to the family of Johnny Elmore. The compassion and humor of Kevin Presley in leading us through Johnny's seventy years of preaching brought tears and laughter from the audience. Kevin reminded us that Johnny was a preacher of the 50s. He continued, paying tribute to Johnny and all the young men who entered the field to preach the gospel in the early 50s. He eloquently reminded the audience that these young men went forth to preach the gospel wherever they found a place that people would listen: in brush arbors, old store buildings, tents and little white clapboard church buildings. The preachers of the early 50s enter the field a few years following the end of World War II. America was changing. It was a new era for America and the Church. These young men were blessed to be able to build on the stabilizing influence of such battle tested preachers as Homer L. King, Homer Gay, Ervin Waters, Paul Nichols, E. H. Miller, Edwin Morris, Lynwood Smith, Don McCord, Clovis Cook and others.

I began traveling with Lynwood Smith and Ervin Waters in 1951. One of my first visits away from home was at the home of the Elmore's in Ardmore, Oklahoma; the place where Lynwood referred to as his Oklahoma home. This is where and when I first met Johnny. One can only imagine the hours of singing that took place in that home and the preaching we heard in Ardmore. But there were lighter moments as well. Johnny and I on several occasions walked to the business district of downtown Ardmore. As we approached others we began jabbering as if we were speaking in a foreign language. The expressions on the faces of strangers caused us to burst into laughter. If you knew Johnny you knew not to be close when he laughed.

After several days in Ardmore, Lynwood and I left to begin a meeting in Temple, Texas. Johnny joined us the last weekend of the meeting. The three of us stayed with Ervin Waters' parents. The first morning after Johnny arrived Sister Waters prepared our breakfast. On each of our plates was a sunny side up egg. This was far from being our favorite dish! Johnny and I looked at each other, gagged, and slowly choked down our eggs. The moment we finished, Sister Waters asked, "Would you boys like another egg?" Before either of us could answer, Lynwood said, "Those boys love eggs, bring them another one, they are just too bashful to say yes." Sister Waters did her best to please. Some time later Lynwood said to Johnny, "Boy you need to be preaching full time!" Johnny took the advice, quit his job, and began traveling with Lynwood. His ministry as an evangelist spanned seventy years.

**TRIBUTE**

*By BILL FERGERSON*

On Lord's Day morning, December 1, I was sitting in my pew soberly reflecting on the sermon I was about to preach, when a brother approached the microphone in customary fashion to begin corporate worship with a prayer. As I was about to lower my head to focus on petitioning the Father, he announced that he had received word moments earlier that brother Johnny Elmore had passed away. I never was so shocked in all my life. The announcement came as a total surprise. I had been deeply concerned about several brethren who had become gravely ill that brother Johnny Elmore's passing caught me off guard. While we had been praying for many older and feeble preachers, including bro. Johnny, I was not expecting such news. My composure changed immediately and suddenly my mind was removed from my sermon as it instantly rushed back through 50 years of knowing bro. Johnny. Among the first thoughts I had was how he was now reunited with his wife Sally, his son Stan, and his dear friend and preaching companion Lynwood Smith, among many others. I then remembered my first work with brother Johnny when I, as a young man aspiring to preach, in the late 1970s and early '80s, was among several young men who mutually wanted to preach. We were engaged in door-to-door knocking campaigns. One place was Paris, Texas. While there, I was able to glean from brother Johnny's experience, wisdom, and work in the kingdom. That week so many of us were encouraged as we sat at his feet to hear him preach. And many of us were honored to do so for the next 40 years. I thought brother Johnny's literary skills was among the best. He was well-read in many genres of books, well-versed in the Bible, and well-skilled in writing. I loved reading after him. What a man, a dear brother, a wonderful preacher, and a lover of music he has been. He was an influence for good to so many. Brother Lynwood Smith, in 1976, wrote a song, Empty Seats, that was published in "New Songs No. 14" and later appeared in the 1978 songbook, "Gospel Banner." The first stanza reads, "There's a seat that is empty in the church house today, And it seems so sad to see it there; For it tells us that a loved one has gone away, And never his voice we'll hear again in song and prayer." The second verse reads, "Empty seats, they remind us that we need ev'ry one, And should love and work together here; For our seats will empty be when our work is done, Then how will it be when our empty seats appear." No place will that be felt greater than the Ardmore, Oklahoma congregation where he called home; and the Oklahoma New Years Meeting, when just before the midnight hour he would lead the assembly in singing the old hymn, Rock of Ages. Jonathan once said to David, "Thou shalt be missed, because thy seat shall be empty" (1 Samuel 20:18). And so will you, brother Johnny, so will you.