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YOUR PASTORS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

This is your space to tell your memories of former pastors and Sunday School teachers from Denver City Texas who influenced your life. [POST IT HERE.](#)

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Church of Christ

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Methodist

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Nazarene

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Pentecostal

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Catholic

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Bethel Baptist Church

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Calvary Baptist Church

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH was formed around 1954. My father and mother were among the charter members, I assume. We loved the pastor of the church, Brother Chester Stevens. Not only was he a good preacher, but it was obvious that he loved his church. Sadly, he left. Perhaps this is not the place but I am placing his death certificate here. He died at the age of thirty-nine, too young. Nearly Christmas, December 17, 1955 on the sidewalk in front of his home, by the side of his four-year old son- murdered by one of our members, a Mr. Vaughn. Perhaps Mr. Vaughn thought he had every right considering the accusation he made that the pastor had an affair with his wife. Surely, forgiveness would have served the cause of the Lord better.

From the Death Certificate of Rev. Chester F. Stevens, former pastor of Calvary Baptist of Denver City, Texas

Weatherford, Parker, Texas Residence: 110 Soward Street
Died: December 17, 1955.
Campbell Memorial Hospital
Chester F Stevens b 5/25/1916 age 39 years 6 months and 22 days.
Male White Married
Minister and laborer

Father's name: S. F. Stevens b Parker County TX
mother's name Mamie Wright. B GA

Served in WWII Informant's Signature: Mrs. Chester Stevens.
Death cause by six gunshot wounds
Two to the brain, and four to the chest.

Place of injury: home
Weatherford, Parker, TX (actually said to be on the sidewalk in front of his home) Dg
Burial 12/19/1955 East Greenwood Cemetery, Weatherford, Parker, Texas
Note: Brother Stevens was shot to death by Mr. Vaughn of Denver City. (Not V. V. Vaughn), and Mr. Vaughn served time for his crime robbing his own family of a father.

This still makes me sad,
Don Giddens, editor. 2009

Trinity Baptist Church

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This wonderful church supported us while we were in the Dominican Republic as missionaries from 1969-1973 and deputation. We were missionaries serving under Maranatha Baptist Missions, of Natchez, MS. They get credit for every soul saved there as we witnessed door-to-door, town to town.

I took my clarinet and children would follow me down the streets singing Christian songs to the top of their lungs. Our favorite Bible club was in 12 de Haina where some the famous Alous and other baseball players were from. Nathan, our son, learned to play baseball with those neighborhood kids and caught crabs or “cangrejos” cooked them in tin cans and ate them by the Caribbean Sea. That was the favorite place he ever lived he said.

Baseball including major league is not to be compared with the importance of the child-like faith of the barefoot boys and girls in the barrios. One little girl with no hands led our parade through the slums beneath the bridge by the river Ozama. Adioscito, y Dios le bendigan a toditos mis heroes.

- Don Giddens, Greenville, TX 2009

First Baptist Church

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MY MEMORIES OF Pastor L. L. Trott of First Baptist Church, Denver City-

Brother Trott influenced my life greatly. My brother Sam Giddens and I sat in the balcony and had to be corrected by the deacons for “leg-wrestling”. I won leg wrestling at R. A. Camp by the way. Brother Trott would say, “Come forward and be saved, The first step is the easiest. “

I heard that many times. While he was pleading I would be peering over the balcony looking at the chandeliers. I thought, “If I jumped to the first chandelier I could swing to the next and the next and plop down at the altar. Surely then I would be saved.” Many times I sat there mesmerized and with a lump in my throat- thinking if he says “Come forward” one more time I’m swinging!

Thank the Lord I never did that; instead a Margaret (Trott?) taught us in Sunday School. She asked those who had

never been saved to raise their hand. I was the last hold -out, and gladly accepted Jesus into my heart in March 1950. Sam and I were both baptized in the church at Seagraves because FBC had not completed their baptistry. Brother Trott always took the time to pray with us at the altar.

Other members of that class I recall were Jimmy Allison, Charlie Williams, Richard Weir, Robert Dewlen and Ronnie Paxton came while he lived in Denver City before his dad died. Someone help me out here who remembers.

Brother Welch, Brother Burton were also my teachers either in Sunday School or Training Union or R. A. s. The older boys such as Mickey Miller, Billy McDowell and Richard Teer were blessings as were the grown-ups such as the Souters, McDowells, Mr. Haywood and many others.

Brother Stevens was a great pastor also at Calvary Baptist Church, now named Bethel.

-Don Giddens, Greenville Texas 2009

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