

MEMORIALS

George M. Elliott

In his Old Testament classes, when speaking of the various prophets Professor George M. Elliott would state, "God always prepares those whom he is going to use."

And so God did with his servant. He prepared him through his birth into the home of a stalwart pioneer preacher. The influence of his godly Christian parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Elliott, began on October 19, 1897 in DeSmet, South Dakota. The example of his father as an evangelist, new church planter and defender of the faith had a profound influence on him.

God also prepared Elliott through his educational experiences. He enrolled in the International Christian Bible College (now Minnesota Bible College) from 1919 to 1922. He attended Winona State Teachers College, Winona, Minnesota from 1922 to 1924. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Cincinnati Bible Seminary in the years from 1927 to 1930. He attended the University of Cincinnati in the summers of 1938 and 1939. He received his liberal arts bachelor's degree from Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio in 1940. He attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky from 1940 to 1942 and attended Winona Lake School of Theology, Winona Lake, Indiana during eight summers from 1943 to 1964, receiving his bachelor of divinity degree in that latter summer.

But God's preparation took Elliott outside of his books and libraries as he gave practical application to his scholarship in everyday service. He preached his first sermon in 1914 at DeSmet, South Dakota even before he had graduated from high school in May 1916. He had an evangelist's heart. After entering Bible college he began ministering with the church at Winona, Minnesota during which time he led in the establishment of the church at LaCrosse, Wisconsin, which later he then began to serve full-time. It was during this ministry that he took as his wife Kathryne Vaughn. In 1927 Elliott became pastor of Western Hills Church of Christ in Cincinnati. Soon afterward his first son, Mark Jerauld, was born. After he received his M.A. at CBS he accepted a call to the Miles Avenue Church of Christ in Cleveland. It was during this ministry that David Vaughn and Lois Carol were born. He had two other pastorates before accepting the call to join the faculty of Cincinnati Bible Seminary in 1937. He served a number of congregations near Cincinnati in the Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio area after he began teaching. He was involved in considerable supply work, did much speaking on special occasions and in special lectures, and was continually involved in a ministry of writing.

God prepared Elliott in other experiences of service. In those early critical years when steady heads and stout hearts were needed in the Restoration movement, he served in some very key positions. He served as secretary of the North American Christian Convention. He was a member of the board of trustees of Cincinnati Bible Seminary from 1935-1952 and served as its recording secretary up to the time of his death in 1981.

Expressing the high esteem in which he was held, Cincinnati Bible Seminary in 1972 conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity and gave him the rank of Distinguished Professor. Subsequently he was honored also by receiving the Alumnus of the Year Award from Cincinnati Bible Seminary in 1976.

Only heaven will record the number of souls that have been influenced by this faithful husband, father, friend, and brother.

John Floyd Gates

John was born on March 23, 1915, in Dover, New Jersey, and his only brother, Willard, a year and half later. John's mother died when he was three and his father died when he was 13, after which the two boys were raised by grandparents. His grandfather taught John his entire elementary school education, and after being tutored one hour a day for five years John passed high school graduation requirements.

His higher education took him to five different institutions from which he graduated: Nyack College, Diploma, 1938; Marion College, Th.D., 1941; Gordon Seminary, B.D., 1947; Westminster Seminary, Th.M., 1948; Temple University, S.T.D., 1951.

After earning his doctorate at the School of Theology of Temple University, and having been ordained by the Christian and Missionary Alliance, he went to King's College, New York, to chair the department of Bible and philosophy. His first year in this capacity was the final year of studies for Grace Wallace, who happened to take twenty hours of classroom lectures from John. Grace had been a U.S. Army nurse, had taught at a school of nursing, and in 1952 began to teach at King's College also. Grace and John soon became known as the best-loved couple on campus, and in 1953 they were married.

In 1960 an old friend who had become the president of St. Paul Bible College, Harry Hardwick, urged John to leave King's College and come to head the department of philosophy at SPBC. This John did and held that post until his retirement from active teaching in 1977. He continued to travel for a preaching ministry to various churches pastored by former students of his.

With his wife's secretarial assistance John did a good deal of writing. His publications include *Adventures in the History of Philosophy* (Zondervan, 1961; soon to be published in a revised edition titled *The Angel and the Beast*); over 100 articles for *Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia* (Moody, 1975); the notes on 1 Kings for *Wycliffe Bible Commentary* (Moody, 1962); and several articles for *Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary* (1963). His last major undertaking, completed but as yet unpublished, is a study of the parables of Jesus.

Injuries incurred at birth restricted severely John's physical activities. An autopsy proved that his neck was broken. His mind was clear and keen, a superb gift of God that was sharpened by his indomitable will. John's spirit, quickened by the regenerating action of the Holy Spirit, brought to him recognition by many friends that he was a man of God. John went to be with his beloved Lord and Savior on July 19, 1982. He was a member of ETS, ASA and APA. He is survived by his wife Grace and by his brother and sister-in-law, Willard and Doris Gates.