

CHULUOTA BAPTIST CHURCH

NOV. 16, 1939

SIXTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

The Church which is now called the Chuluota Baptist Church was chartered, organized and christened as Harmony Baptist Church on Jan. 8th, 1875.

However, the first services, which were two months previous, were held in the home of W. C. Jacobs, when Rev. R. W. Lawton assisted by Rev. George Gandez conducted the meetings.

At one of these meetings the following believers
W. C. Jacobs and wife, P. J. Jacobs and wife,
G. M. Jacobs and wife, D. F. Simmons and wife,
John Tanner and wife, Polly and Albert Roberts,
pledged their services to the cause of Christ.

This was the beginning of church work in Chuluota.

Through the combined efforts of these Consecrated Pioneer Christians a little log Church was built about one mile east of Chuluota, near Lake Pickett, and was ready for the regular organization meeting, which convened in it on Jan. 8th, 1875.

The floor of this little Log Church was made of hewed punching; the benches were slabs, split, holes bored and pegs set in for legs.

A few years later, 1883 for convenience, the meetings were held in the little boxed school house in the southern part of Chuluota proper.

In 1888 the present Church building was erected and dedicated as Harmony Baptist Church of Chuluota.

Eight of the charter members lived consistent members of

this church until death. The three surviving ones are still members here.

They have proved faithful followers of the Master for sixty-five years. They are: G. M. Jacobs and wife, Polly Ann, Mary E. Jacobs.

During these sixty-five years there has been thirteen Pastors as follows:

Rev. R. W. Lawton	30 years
Rev. J. W. Savage	1 year
Rev. Tindall	1 year
Rev. M. S. Simons	1 year
Rev. T. J. Bell	*4 years
Rev. Wm. Martin	2 years
Rev. E. A. Milton	10 years
Rev. B. H. Guy	2 years
Rev. A. A. Wainright	1 year
Rev. Jas. E. Day, Jr.	<u>1 year</u>
TOTAL	65 years

During these sixty-five years the church has had the following Deacons:

W. C. Jacobs-----1875-1897	Frank M. Story-Aug. 1910 until death
Charles Phillips-1898-1904	Noah C. Jacobs--1910
Henry W. Tanner--1910-1915 <i>ordained at Lockwood church July 17</i>	George G. Jacobs-1910
J. Tilden Jacobs 1922	<i>ordained at Lake Monroe church, 1922</i>

The first Sunday School was taught in the little Log Church by Albert Roberts. The people observed the old Puritan custom in Church and Sunday School of men and women separatint at the door; men and boys sitting on one side of the house and the women and girls on the other.

The songs were lined out by the Minister and all present knelt during prayer. An Amen corner was reserved for the Deacons,

Church officers and other elderly male members.

A mourner's bench was provided for those who were seeking the Salvation of the Souls of their loved ones, and those seeking Christ for themselves.

Their mode of travel was the ox cart or on foot, but they came from far and near to attend their Church appointments.

During the ordinance of Baptism the Deacons removed their shoes and knelt by the water's edge to prevent walking on sacred ground.

The present Sunday School was organized Nov. 10, 1889, with W. C. Jacobs, Supt., Charles Phillips Assistant Superintendent and Bible Class Teacher; R. R. Whitten, Int. #1 boys; Mrs. Jewell Int. #2 girls; Gabe Long, Juvenile; Mrs. Starbuck, Primary; P. J. Jacobs, Treasurer; John W. Jacobs and Geo. Jewell, Co-Secretaries.

The first W. M. U. was organized by Mrs. Dr. E. Lee Smith, Dec. 29, 1912, with Mrs. J. T. Jacobs, President, Mrs. N. C. Jacobs, Treasurer. Also the first Sunbeam Band was organized by Mrs. Smith at the same time, with J. Tilden Jacobs, leader, Eugenia Baily, President, Irene Hart, Secretary, Leslie Sheppard, Treasurer.

This Sunbeam Band was one of the four bands to be placed on the Honor Roll in the State for the year 1912.

The first B. Y. P. U. was organized in December, 1900, with the following officers: President, George Jacobs, Vice-President, Angie Phillip, Secretary Ida Jacobs, Treasurer, Josie Jacobs, Chorister, Charley Steeven, Corresponding Secy, Laura Long, and Group Captains, Percy Culley and Anna Barber

1st Cor. 13: 12.

Mr. Lawton's last Text

Joshua Jacobs

Joe Lawton Memorial Text act

18, 1908

by