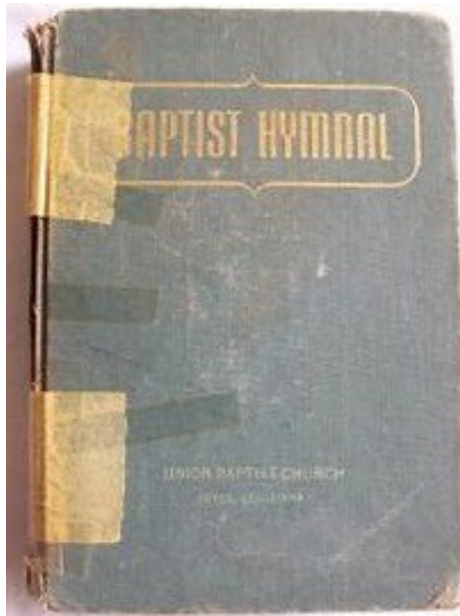


# **GIVE ME THAT OLD TIME RELIGION**



BY BILL RENFRO



RIGHT CLICK ON THE LINK  
BELOW THEN OPEN IN A NEW  
TAB TO LISTEN TO THE SONG

Old Time Religion

## **WHERE DID IT GO ?**

**WHAT** HAPPENED TO THE DAYS WHEN PEOPLE WHO WERE LISTENING TO A SERMON THAT WAS BEING PREACHED FROM A GOD FILLED PASTOR WHO WAS SPEAKING FROM HIS HEART AND NOT A HANDFULL OF NOTES, WERE NOT ASHAMED TO CALL OUT A LOUD “ A-MEN “ OR “PREACH ON REVEREND “

**WHAT** HAPPENED WHEN PEOPLE WHO BECAME FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, WOULD JUMP UP FROM THEIR SEATS AND YELL “HALLELUJAH“ OR MAYBE START DANCING IN THE ISLES . DID GOD STOP SHOWING UP AT CHURCH ? OR DID WE JUST FORGET HOW TO WORSHIP !

**THERE** WAS A SONG FROM THE OLD MOVIE **SARGEANT YORK**, WHERE **ALVIN**

**YORK, WHO DID NOT BELIEVE AND DID NOT GO TO CHURCH WITH HIS FAMILY, WAS RIDING HIS MULE TO TOWN ONE SUNDAY WHEN A THUNDER STORM CAME UP WITH RAIN AND THUNDER, JUST THEN A BOLT OF LIGHTNING STRUCK A TREE NEXT TO ALVIN AND HIS MULE AND THEY WERE KNOCKED TO THE GROUND. THEY BOTH GOT UP, HAVING NOT BEEN KILLED, AND BEGAN TO RIDE BACK TO TOWN. WHEN ALVIN GOT TO THE CHURCH HE WENT INSIDE WHILE THE CONGREGATION WAS SINGING "GIVE ME THAT OLD TIME RELIGION". ALVIN WORKED HIS WAY DOWN TO THE FRONT AS HE SANG ALONG AND GAVE HIS HEART TO GOD. NOW THERE ARE TWO WAYS OF THINKING ABOUT THIS STORY. ONE IS THAT WHEN YOU ARE IN A STORM OF LIFE, GOD CAN SAVE YOU, AND THE OTHER IS DON'T RIDE YOUR MULE IN A THUNDER STORM.**

**AS A COUNTRY BOY WHO GREW UP GOING**

*TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY, ( MY MOTHER WAS THE PIANIST ) I CAN STILL HEAR THOSE HELL AND BRIMSTONE SERMONS THAT CAME FROM THE PULPIT . THOSE WERE THE DAYS THAT GOD SEEMED CLOSEST.*

*IN THOSE DAYS, EACH CHURCH HAD A WEEK LONG REVIVAL SERVICE IN THE SUMMER , AND IT WAS ATTENDED BY THOSE OF ALL DENOMINATIONS.*

*WE LIVED ON A FARM ABOUT 5 MILES OUTSIDE THE LITTLE TOWN OF DAWSON, TEXAS, WHICH HAD HAD A PERMANENT BRUSH ARBOR INSTALLED ON THE EDGE OF TOWN AND WAS TO BE USED BY ALL CHURCHES.*

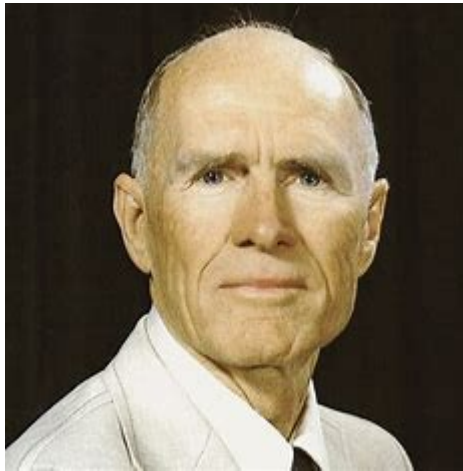


***THE OLD BRUSH ARBOR  
MEETINGS***

***MY*** FAMILY WAS METHODIST AND ON THE SAME CORNER WAS A BAPTIST CHURCH AND WE SOMETIMES COMBINED OUR REVIVAL SERVICES . IT WAS AT THIS SMALL BAPTIST CHURCH THAT I FOUND THE LITTLE GIRL THAT WAS TO BECOME MY WIFE OF 70 YEARS.

***I*** GREW UP JUST DOWN THE ROAD FROM WHERE ONE OF THE MORE WELL KNOWN PREACHERS OF THE 1930'S – 1940'S WAS RAISED.

***HIS*** NAME WAS ***LESTER ROLOFF***. HIS FATHER AND MOTHER STILL LIVED AT THE HOME WHERE HIS GRANDFATHER HAD WORKED FOR THE EL DORADO RANCH OF 1881, AND WHICH WAS ON RANCH PROPERTY AT THAT TIME. MY COUSIN AND I RODE PAST THERE EACH DAY AS WE RODE OUR HORSES TO A LITTLE COUNTRY SCHOOL.



***LESTER LEO ROLOFF***

***1914 - 1982***



**LESTER** WAS A GRADUATE OF BAYLOR UNIVERSITY IN WACO, TEXAS. AND AFTER SEMINARY, BEGAN A CHURCH IN WACO. HE GREW TO NATIONAL ATTENTION WHEN HE REFUSED TO RUN TWO SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS AS THE GOVERNMENT WANTED HIM TO DO.

**LESTER** WAS ONE OF THOSE PREACHERS WHO PREACHED HELLFIRE AND BRIMSTONE AND WAS A REVIVAL SPEAKER MANY TIMES IN DAWSON .

**IN** THOSE DAYS A PREACHER WAS NOT AFRAID TO MENTION HELL, FOR FEAR OF OFFENDING SOMEONE, SO THAT THEY MIGHT NOT DROP ANYTHING INTO THE OFFERING PLATE OR EVEN WORSE, THEY MIGHT NEVER COME BACK TO HEAR HIM. THAT WAS NO WAY TO BUILD A BIG CHURCH !

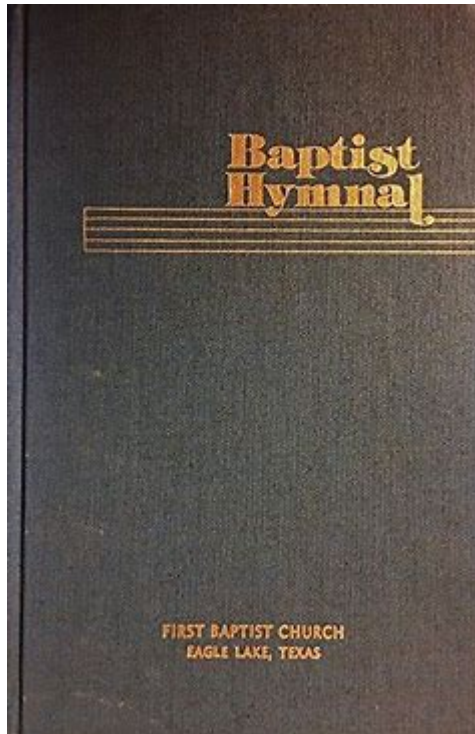
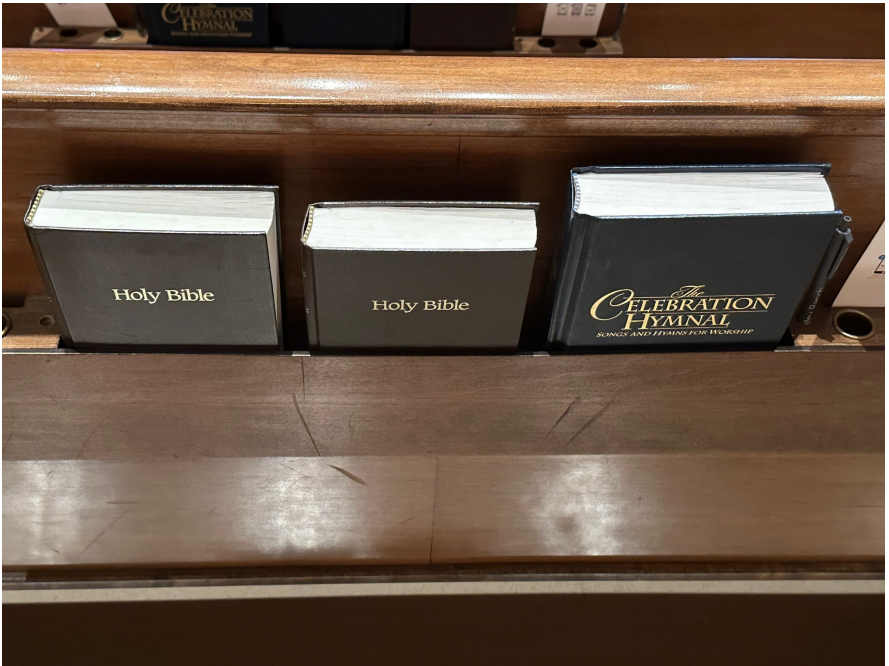


***THE HOLY BIBLE***

***I NO LONGER HEAR THE DEVIL OR HELL MENTIONED IN OUR CHURCHES TODAY, ALTHOUGH HELL IS MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE MORE THAN HEAVEN. THE MESSAGES THESE DAYS SEEM TO ONLY REPEAT THE SAME BIBLICAL STORIES THAT WE HAVE HEARD FOR ALL OF OUR CHRISTIAN LIVES.***

***THEY SEEM TO ONLY BE PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT OR SOCIAL CONTACT.***

***THE ELDERLY NO LONGER HAVE A PLACE IN CHURCH WHERE THE MUSIC IS SO LOUD THAT IT REACHES THE THRESHOLD OF PAIN, AND PLAYED BY OUR WERY OWN ROCK BAND, WITH SONGS NEVER HEARD BEFORE, WHILE OUR SONG BOOKS REMAIN BEHIND THE PEWS COLLECTING DUST. I REMEMBER WHEN WE ONLY HAD A PIANO AND YOU COULD HEAR THE PEOPLE SING.***



***THESE*** ARE THE HYMNALS THAT CONTAIN SONGS THAT WERE WRITTEN BY THE TRUE CHRISTIANS WHO VIEWED GOD AS BEING WORTHY TO BE PRAISED AND WHO WROTE THOSE SONGS THAT BUILT OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH.

***I*** REMEMBER THE TIMES THAT I THOUGHT THAT THE SINGING WAS BETTER THAN THE SERVICE THAT FOLLOWED. THAT THE MUSIC HAD PUT ME INTO A PLACE WHERE I WAS READY TO HEAR WHAT THE LORD HAD TO SAY JUST TO ME, ONLY TO HEAR ANOTHER STORY ABOUT SOMEONE OF 2000 YEARS AGO.

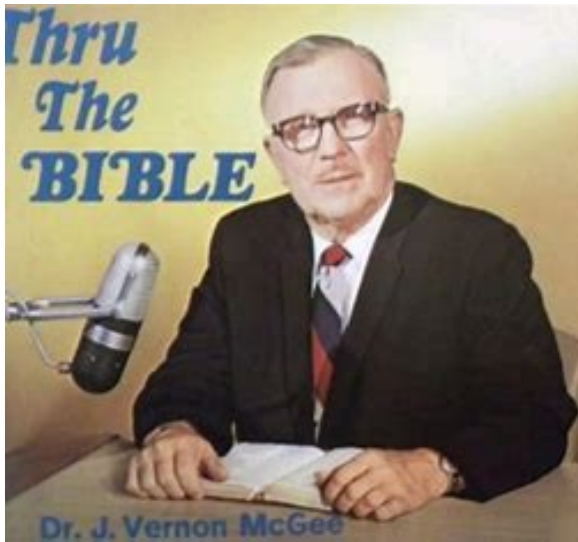
***I*** REMEMBER THE TIME WHEN EVERYONE WORE THEIR BEST CLOTHES TO CHURCH AS A MESSAGE OF HONOR AND RESPECT FOR GOD.



***THE TEN COMMANDMENTS  
OF GOD***

***I CAN REMEMBER WHEN OUR SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES ALL HAD A COPY OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS PROMINENTLY ON THE FRONT WALL WHERE THE STUDENTS SAW THEM EACH DAY, AND HOPEFULLY READ THEM AND TRIED TO LIVE BY WHAT GOD TOLD US TO DO EACH DAY OF OUR LIVES.***

***WHAT HAPENED TO THIS ? THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH HAS SAT AND WATCHED WHILE THE UNGODLY IN OUR MIDST HAS HAD THEM REMOVED WITH THE HELP OF SATAN . WE HAVE LET THE DEVIL REMOVE ALL THINGS OF GOD, DESTROY OUR SCHOOLS, TRY HIS BEST TO DESTROY THE FAMILY, TEACH OUR CHILDREN TO HATE THEIR PARENTS, TO TURN TO DRUGS AND OTHER UNGODLY THINGS. GOD HELP OUR COUNTRY.***



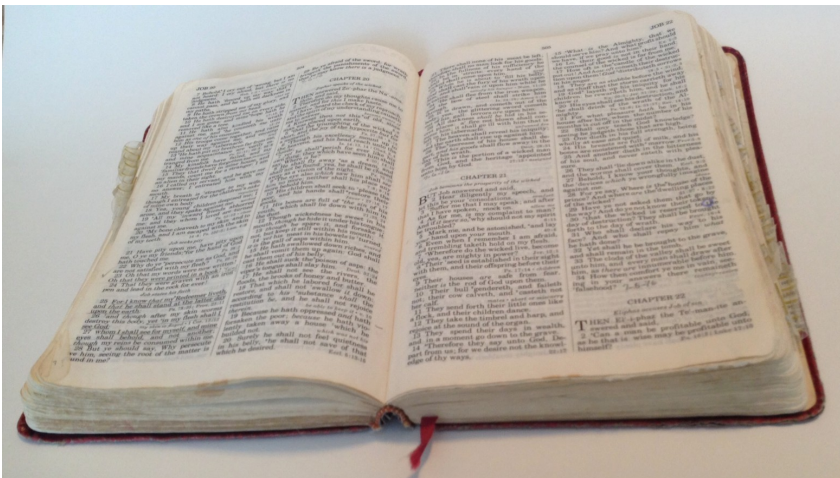
***DR. J. VERNON MCGEE***

***1903 - 1988***



***I REMEMBER LEAVING CHURCH FEELING THAT I HAD JUST BEEN WITH GOD, NOT WONDERING WHERE WE WILL GO FOR LUNCH.***

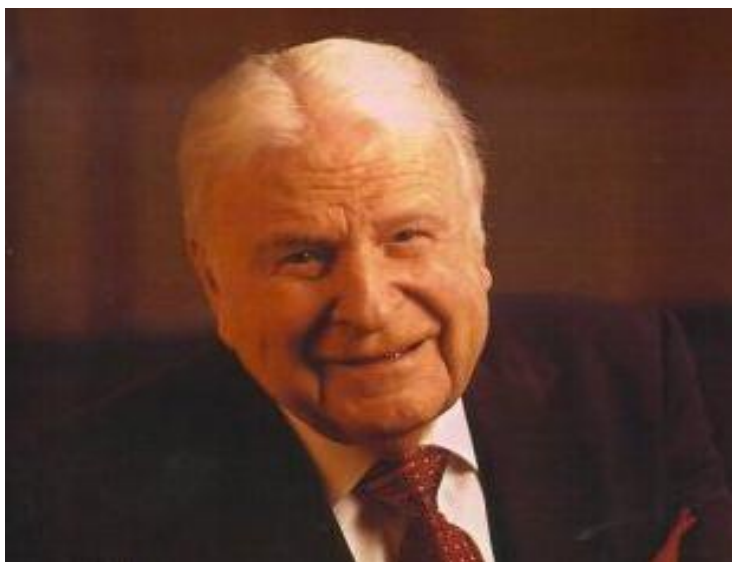
***ONE OF MY WIFE BABE'S FAVORITE PREACHERS WAS THE REV. J. VERNON MCGEE. SHE LISTENED TO HIM ON THE RADIO AND SELDOM MISSED A BROADCAST.***



***MY WIFE BABE'S BIBLE***



***FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH DALLAS***



***RV. W. A. CRISWELL***  
***1909 - 2002***

**WHO** COULD FORGET THE **REVEREND**  
**W. A. CRISWELL** OF THE FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF DALLAS, TEXAS, WHO FIRST  
BEGAN PREACHING AT THE AGE OF 17 AND  
WHO BECAME A PASTOR AT DALLAS IN 1944  
AND WHERE HE REMAINED UNTILL HIS  
RETIREMENT. ONE OF HIS LAST SERMONS  
WAS ENTITLED “ OLD TIME RELIGION “ AND  
WHICH CAN BE HEARD ON YOUR COMPUTER  
TODAY. IT IS WELL WORTH LISTENING TO !  
HE PASSED AWAY IN 2002 AT THE AGE OF 92.

**IN** 1953, WHILE PASTOR CRISWELL WAS  
THERE , THE **REV. BILLY GRAHAM** JOINED  
THE CHURCH AND REMAINED A MEMBER  
FOR 55 YEARS .



***THE REV. BILLY GRAHAM***  
***1918 – 2018***

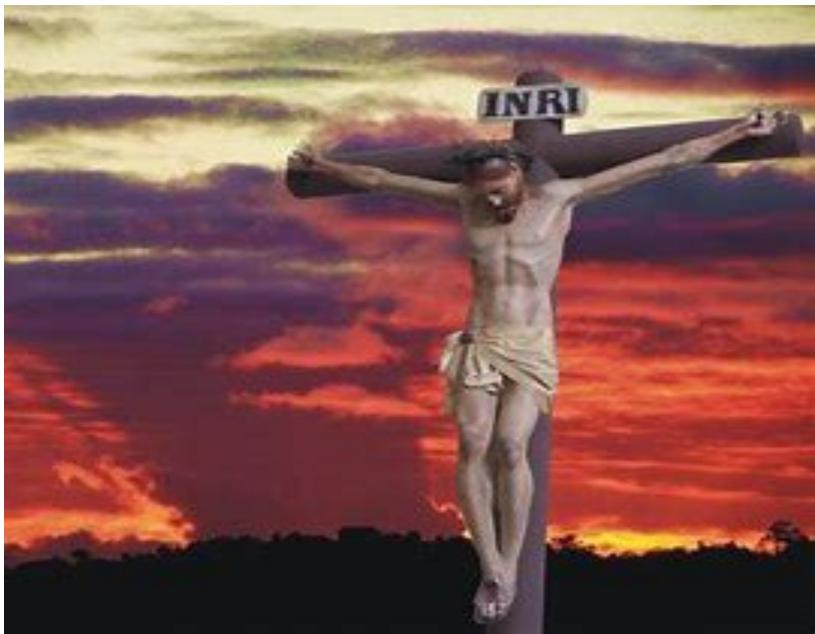
***I BELIEVE THAT ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE PREACHERS OF MY TIME WAS REV. BILLY GRAHAM. I HAVE NEVER SEEN A MAN THAT MUST HAVE BEEN AS FULL OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD AS WAS HE. HE WOULD PREACH A SERMON SO SIMPLE THAT EVEN A CHILD COULD UNDERSTAND IT, AND WHEN HE GAVE THE ALTER CALL, THERE WOULD BE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE COMING DOWN TO GIVE THEIR LIVES TO CHRIST. HE LIVED EACH DAY WITH GOD. I HOPE TO SOME DAY SHAKE HIS HAND.***





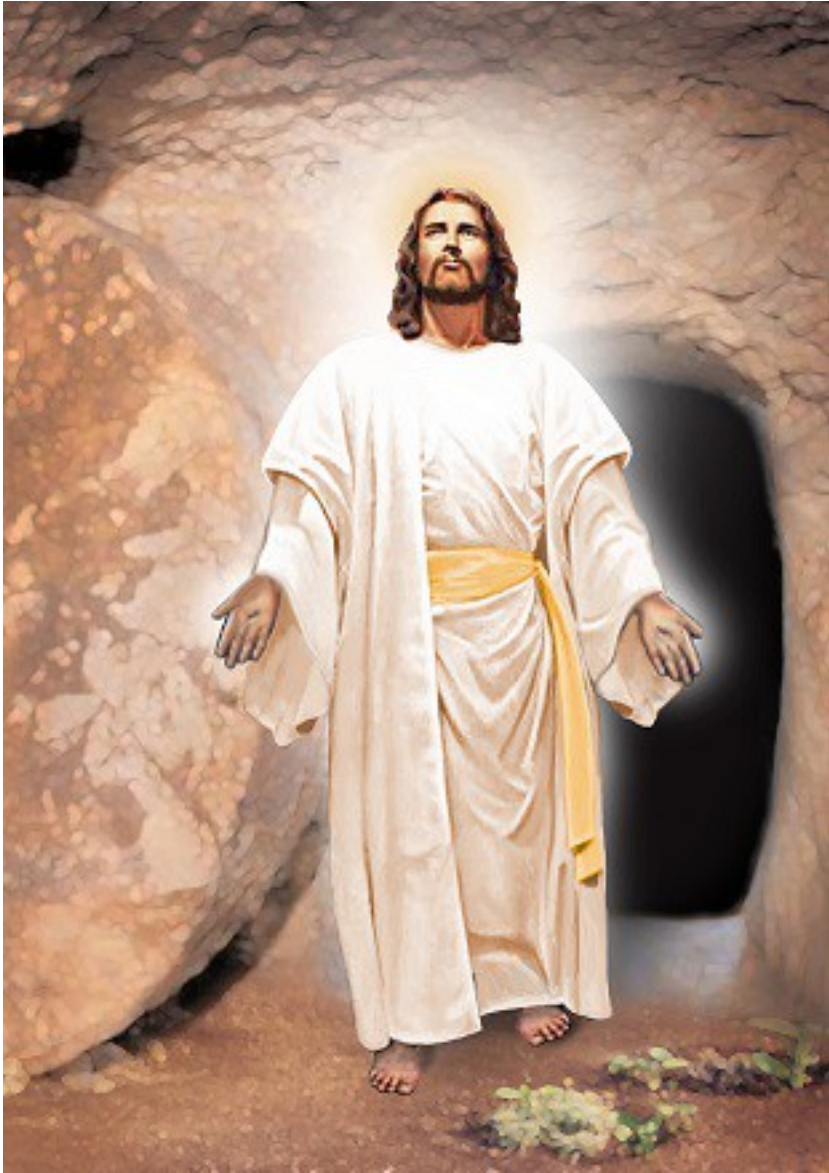
***THE REV. JOHN HAGEE***

***I MUST CONFESS THAT ONE OF MY FAVORITE PREACHERS IS REV. JOHN HAGEE. HE COMES FROM A FAMILY OF MINISTERS AND HIS SON IS FOLLOWING IN HIS FAMILY BUSINESS. HE COMES FROM A BACKGROUND OF THOSE WHO PREACHED HELLFIRE AND BRIMSTONE. HE IS NOT ONE TO BACK DOWN ON WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE, AND WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO STOP IT. HIS MINISTRY STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND HAS ALSO BUILT A HOME FOR UNWED MOTHERS. HIS TELEVISION MINISTRY IS HEARD AROUND THE WORLD. HE IS MY KIND OF GUY, AND I TRY NOT TO MISS A SERVICE. MY WIFE AND I HAD VISITED HIS CHURCH SEVERAL TIMES AND ALWAYS FELT THAT WE HAD BEEN BLESSED.***



***JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS***





***BUT HE IS ALIVE !!***



**IN LOVING MEMORY**

**WILMA L. (BABE) RENFRO**

*1932 - 2018*

