FOUNDER’S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Bishop William Edward Fuller Sr.

Celebrating the life of the founder of the Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God of the Americas

Vernell Turner, District Secretary
1/24/2015
FOUNDER’S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Bishop William Edward Fuller Sr.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF OUR HISTORY

1. Who was the founder of our church?
   a. B.H. Irwin
   b. J.H. King
   c. W.E. Fuller

2. When was he born?
   a. January 29, 1875
   b. January 29, 1850
   c. January 29, 1888

3. Where was he born?
   a. Greer, South Carolina
   b. Mountville, South Carolina
   c. Fountain Inn, South Carolina

4. Where did he move when his mother died?
   a. Fountain Inn, South Carolina
   b. To his grandmother's house
   c. Mountville, South Carolina

5. Who raised him?
   a. Grandmother Hurley
   b. Aunt Ida
   c. Miss Martha Wright

6. Whose preaching caused him to be saved?
   a. Brother W.T. Burgess
   b. J.M. Pike
   c. Oscar Fuller
7. What was the name of the first church he joined?
   a. New Hope A.M.E. Church
   b. Mt. Moriah
   c. New Zion

8. Where did he get sanctified?
   a. brush harbor
   b. corn field
   c. barn

9. Where was his favorite praying ground?
   a. Behind his house
   b. In a tree
   c. Near Beaver Dam

10. How many members were with him when he started the church?
    a. 9
    b. 5
    c. 2

11. How many miles did he walk for service each week?
    a. 10
    b. 2
    c. 9

12. What was his favorite hymn?
    a. Love for Zion
    b. Keeping the Charge of the Lord
    c. Amazing Grace

13. When did our founder die?
    a. January 29, 1938
    b. January 29, 1948
    c. January 20, 1958
14. How many years did he serve the church?
   a. 60
   b. 83
   c. 58

15. How old was he when he died?
   a. 80
   b. 82
   c. 83

16. What office did he hold in the white church?
   a. Elected to the General Board, overseer of the Negro churches
   b. Secretary and Trustee
   c. 2nd Bishop in charge of the Negroes

17. Why did he leave the FBH organization under Benjamin Irwin?
   a. Racial problems caused him to part ways
   b. Offered more money and a better position in another church
   c. Accused of taking money from the offering plates

18. After leaving the white man’s plantation, he went to work at what college?
   a. Harvard
   b. Greenville
   c. Harverson
True or False

1. The Way of Faith was a church
   True
   False

2. Bishop drove a mule 45 miles to attend the Fire Baptized Holiness Association in Anderson, South Carolina.
   True
   False

3. The first General Council of the colored Fire Baptized Church was held May 1900.
   True
   False

4. Bishop established a newspaper of his own called the True Witness
   True
   False

5. Bishop’s parents were Richard and Mahulda Fuller.
   True
   False

   True
   False

7. Blacks are admitted to the FBH Association with full equality.
   True
   False

8. Aunt Ida called him Armstead
   True
   False
BIOGRAPHY OF BISHOP W. E. FULLER SR.

*Father-Founder of the Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God of the Americas*

The cold, wintry morning of January 29, 1875 heralded the birth of a tiny baby boy – William Edward Fuller, born to George and Martha Fuller, in Mountville, South Carolina. This small morsel of humanity was preordained as an instrument of the most, high God to profoundly impact upon the moral and religious conscience of men and women of this world not for just an age, but for all time.

Young Fuller was nurtured in a lovingly shared home by his parents under the wisdom of his grandfather Richard and grandmother Mahulda Fuller. Along with his sisters, Jessie, Annie Laurie, and Carrie; brothers Oscar and Charles, he walked five (5) miles each way to a log-cabin schoolhouse. His teacher, Miss Foster, taught him from a blue-black speller. Although his school was in session only three (3) months of the year, he was an apt pupil. The first word that he learned from the blue-black speller was “baker”.

Within the limited opportunity to get a formal education in the city of Mountville, he learned the names and location of the counties in the state of South Carolina, and could recite them from memory. Young Fuller learned hymn-singing from his grandfather, Richard.

As the youth approached his late teens, he soon grew tired of the pittance earned from working on farms picking cotton, digging potatoes, and pulling fodder, and finally migrated to Fountain Inn, South Carolina. There in Fountain Inn he found work on the Jenkins plantation and his “boss” gave him a room just for himself in the upper level of the barn. A short time after he arrived in Fountain Inn he received news of his mother’s death (his father died before he reached school age), and returned to Mountville to live with his grandmother “Hurley”, and his Aunt Ida. It was Aunt Ida that fixed up a place for him to sleep in the attic of the old home place.

Young Fuller was saved under the preaching of Brother W.T. Burgess at New Hope Methodist Church and joined the church. He became a class leader and a steward; was called to preach and was licensed by Elder Lyte. His Aunt Ida recalled the difficulties he encountered while fervently pursing his desire to preach the word – he preached in the living rooms of homes, in churches, and on the streets. During those early years, he did not have adequate clothing to wear and very little money in his pockets. Even so, he expressed to his Aunt
Ida his determination to push on – believing that God was going to shower him with blessings after awhile.

Brother Fuller married Miss Martha Wright in 1895, and to this union was born three (3) sons and two (2) daughters: Eldridge, Mattie, Douglas, Scintilla, and Oscar.

Reverend Fuller was sanctified in 1895 out in a corn field near his home place. While playing for a brass band, he realized that he needed “something more” – went out into the corn field again and prayed to God to give him a clean heart. God’s answer was to sanctify him wholly.

In 1897 he began to read a little circular paper entitled “The Way of Faith” that was edited by J.M. Pike. Brother Fuller read about a man who was sanctified in Iowa and baptized by the Holy Ghost and fire in Nebraska. Not too long after that, he went to lay out a baseball diamond and upon leaving this job he again went to the corn field and agonized until he was baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire, not even knowing where it was spoken of in the Bible. His favorite praying ground was down by Beaver Dam near Cross Hill where he was called to preach.

Brother Fuller had to do hard labor and many odd jobs in an effort to support his growing family. He finally found extra work on the railroad and travelled as far away as Asheville, North Carolina to work on the Vanderbilt Estate. The desire to be at home with family and friends caused him to soon return to Mountville where he was able once again to begin working for the Seaboard Railroad. Eventually, he was asked to work on Sunday, and it was at this point that he gave up this job, vowing to starve if he had to, in order to keep the Lord’s Day holy.

Continuing to receive the “Way of Faith”, he read in this paper that the Fire Baptized Holiness Association was meeting in Anderson, South Carolina on August 1, 1898. He borrowed his brother-in-law’s wagon, hitched up his old grey mule, and according to his words: “I drove forty-five miles from Mountville to Anderson and got there just about dark. On my way to the tent I heard them singing and shouting, I took off my neck tie and threw it into the ditch (did not put on another neck-tie for as long as he lived), and I ran the rest of the way because I was in such a hurry to get there and I didn’t want to miss anything. It was there that I found my crowd. They preached against all worldliness. I testified to how I had come over, and kissed and hugged the saints. There was
**some colored ministers standing around who begged me not to join, but I stepped out like Abraham, not knowing where I was going but believing that God would bless me.”** Brother Fuller joined the church and was ordained at the same meeting by B.H. Irvin, J.H. King, S.J. Mackleroy, and Brother Craft. He was the only black man in the “crowd”.

This man of God returned home and gave up his membership, class leadership, and his local license; Told the Methodist leaders that: “I’m Fire Baptized”. Although ridiculed by his brother-in-law, friends, and acquaintances, he went out on his own with two (2) members – his Aunt Caroline and Sister Williams who lived in Clinton, South Carolina. He walked nine (9) miles from Mountville to Clinton, South Carolina each week to have service with Sister Williams. Each would declare to the other – “I’m in the Way. I’m Fire Baptized.” Hug each other and shout together, praising the Lord. Afterwards, he would walk back to Mountville.

These were indeed hard times for the young preacher and his family. Much of the time his only pay for his hard labor was a sack of meal and a few potatoes. He worked from sun up to sun down on the white man’s plantation: milking the cows, cleaning out the barn, clearing fields, planting the crops just to keep a roof over their heads and to earn 25 cents a day. He knew that this road was rough, but he wanted to keep his evenings free so that he could go out into the hedges and exhort sinners to come to Christ. His wife, Sister Martha, told him to set his course, to keep on trying and to never give up. She was willing to make the sacrifice with him.

Later on, Brother Fuller moved his family to Abbeyville, South Carolina to live and work on the Harveson College campus. Dr. Amos, president of the college trained Brother Fuller in the Bible and in English. When he was finished with his duties at the college, he went out evangelizing. He became widely known in the black community for preaching the “blood, fire, and dynamite gospel”.

Bishop Fuller was a great statesmen and educator; A man of cohesive power and winsome personality. His organizing of churches was gripping. He was a dynamic preacher. His thunderous delivery upset sinners; his manner of prayer was religiously disturbing; he stormed the hearts and minds of men and women with a rare charismatic gift of persuasion that made him a soul-winner for Christ. God anointed-God appointed, he was well known as an
ecclesiastical giant among his peers throughout the United States, and abroad; A crusader for the true and living God.

God bountifully blessed Bishop Fuller and his work continued to grow and to multiply. Following the death of his beloved Mother Emma, he entered into a third marriage to Miss Pauline Birmingham Fuller, who served the church as a pastor and as National Mother Chairlady.

Our founder led the Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God of the Americas for sixty (60) years. An old-time favorite hymn – “A charge to keep I have, A God to glorify; A never-dying soul to save – And fit it for the sky” became his “cloud by day” and his “pillar of fire by night”. By these oft sung words he traversed the time-worn bridge from earthly labor to reward on January 20, 1958.

“To serve the present age
   My calling to fulfill
O, may it all my powers engage
   To do my Master’s will...”

His sixty (60) years of devoted service to the church which he had the divine inspiration to initiate and perpetuate were, indeed, a memorial to his fine character. His central goal, his singular purpose was to edify throughout the world – to glorify God and to magnify His works. He retired only when he heard at last the Master’s welcomed voice, “Well done.”

Somewhere in the bivouacs of eternal glory Bishop Fuller Sr. sings today with the angels...

“...Help me to watch and pray
   And on thyself rely,
Assured if I my trust betray,
   I shall forever die.”

He kept his sacred charge.
FOUNDER’S BIRTHDAY WORD JUMBLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HRTAAM</th>
<th>MEMA</th>
<th>AIELNUP</th>
<th>GEDEELID</th>
<th>TAEMTI</th>
<th>GLDAOSU</th>
<th>ALCISITLIN</th>
<th>CASRO</th>
<th>JINHOEN</th>
<th>HEYNR</th>
<th>MIWLALI</th>
<th>HERALSC</th>
<th>TUHR</th>
<th>TETBY</th>
<th>GEREOG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Instructions:

Unscramble each of the clue words.

Take the letters that appear in the circled boxes and unscramble them for the final message.
FOUNDER’S BIRTHDAY CROSSWORD

Across
1 Mountville, South Carolina
2 Richard Fuller
5 1st Church
8 Place where he was sanctified
9 Martha Fuller
10 George Fuller
11 Mahulda Fuller

Down
1 Favorite praying ground
3 Armstead
4 Father in the Gospel
6 January 29, 1875
7 Way of Faith