

WOODROW KINNEY

Creek/Seminole
SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA

I was raised in a Christian home as my parents were very active in the church. My grandfather was pastor of the church we attended and later my father became the pastor and my mother was an active leader in the church, including women's mission work. As a young boy I was taught scripture through regular church attendance, Sunday School, Training Union, Vacation Bible School, and attendance at Indian Falls Creek Baptist Assembly as well as other camps.

Although raised in a Christian home, I was seventeen years old before I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Being the son of a preacher/pastor, I found there were expectations from others that I had to behave in a certain manner and that I should be more like my father. I was asked several times whether I was going to be a preacher like my father. As I reflect, these expectations caused me to develop an attitude that I did not have to be what others wanted me to be. I was under conviction as a teenager and knew that I needed the Lord. I am grateful for my mother because I know she was concerned about my salvation and continually prayed for me. Her concern extended to asking one of our missionary friends to speak with me about my salvation. But I continued to resist accepting Christ as Savior. Because of the conviction that I was experiencing, I resorted to frequently leaving the worship services at the time for invitation. This went on for 2-3 years as the Holy Spirit dealt with my need for Christ.

Rev. Elliott Leitka was a member of our church and was very active in Indian Falls Creek Assembly and later became a missionary. He would regularly take his family to the annual camp of Indian Falls Creek and asked me to go with his family to the camp on at least two occasions. His son and I were the same age and were raised together within the church. In 1960, Bro. Elliott asked me to go with his family to Indian Falls Creek Assembly. I believe it was on Thursday night of that week, I was in the worship service with Bro. Elliott's son and during the invitation, I saw Bro. Elliott coming up the aisle from his position at the front of the stage where all of the preachers stood. I knew in my heart that he was coming to me. He stood in the aisle and looked at me, speaking in our native language, he asked me, "What about you? What are you going to do?" I immediately stepped into the aisle and went with him to the front of the tabernacle and prayed to accept Christ as Savior.

Today, I am an active member of our local church, was ordained as deacon in 1991 and serve as Sunday School teacher.