

Gospel Gazette

Salt Lake City Mission, P.O. Box 142, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-0142 - Phone 801-355-6310

In Loving Memory

Bishop Mel Givens

1932 - 2010

Our dear brother in Christ, our Mentor, Advisor, Co-Labor, our dear friend...has gone to be with the Lord. We will miss him dearly as he has been a valuable asset to the community and to Salt Lake City Mission. He faithfully served on the Salt Lake City Mission Board of Advisors for over 15 years and for the last 6+ years and faithfully serve as a Trustee on the Board of Trustees of Salt Lake City Mission.



Bishop M.A. Givens Jr. was born in Midland, Texas to Elder and Mrs. M.A. Givens Sr. on August 10, 1932 in the spring of 1944, he was saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost where he was baptized in the Pecos River just outside of McCamey, Texas. He grew up in the church his father pastured (just called The Church of God in Christ). Elder Givens attended elementary and high school in Midland, Texas Globe and Tucson, Arizona, and Las Vegas, Nevada. He studied at: Cox Theological Seminary (Las Vegas, Nevada), Northwest Christian College (Eugene, Oregon) Tacoma Bible Institute and Pacific Lutheran University (Tacoma, Washington).

In 1945, Pastor Mel was called into the ministry and so began his 65 years of service. He preached his first message in a district meeting on "Official Day" February 14, 1946 under the supervision of Elder J.E. Alexander, (Pastor and District Superintendent Lamesa, Texas). He was licensed to preach (1951) and subsequently ordained (1954) by Bishop C.C. Cox during the Holy Convocation in Las Vegas, Nevada. In the summer of 1954, Elder Givens was appointed pastor of a church in Barstow, California. There alongside Elder C. Hall, Elder M.L. Williams and Bishop C.C. Cox, he organized the Barstow Church of God in Christ.

Elder Givens traveled as a national evangelist and served as: an Assistant District Superintendent, Director of Public

Relations, State Food Administrator and State Sunday School Superintendent for the Nevada C.O.G.I.C. District. Additionally, Pastor Givens established and built the Grace Memorial C.O.G.I.C. Church in Boise, Idaho, later pasturing Community C.O.G.I.C. in Idaho Falls, Idaho. In 1966, Bishop Givens was consecrated Bishop of Idaho and Alberta, Canada.

In July of 1968, Bishop Givens and his family left Idaho Falls for Salt Lake City. Shortly after establishing their household, they began holding Sunday School services in the basement of their home. It was in this humble beginning that a seed of faith was planted. Services continued for nine months, when in April 1969 a parcel of land was purchased at 862 W. 300 N. This was to be the site of the new church.

In August 1969, a revival service was started in a small tent pitched at the rear of the property. A week later, in the same location, a revival crusade was held with the national evangelist S.V. Teauge of Washington D.C.

The following month, under the direction and guidance of the Holy Ghost, Bishop Givens began construction of the church building. Remaining dedicated in his service to God, he continued church services in a tool shed located on the property during the construction process.

Through the aid and assistance of the LDS Church and other local businesses and Churches brought together people from many different backgrounds (including over 28,000 local youth who held bake sales, car washes, and cleaning garages and basements) in support of this great cause. In June of 1970 over 500 church and community participants gathered together in a banquet to celebrate their achievements in raising funds. On August 23-30, 1970 the Deliverance Temple Church of God in Christ was dedicated. Church services were held regularly until the early eighties when the church building was sold to its present owners, the World Wide Gospel Church.

After spending a few years in California, Pastor Givens returned to Salt Lake City and began holding church services at the Redwood Multi Purpose Center. In 1985 Deliverance Temple took up residence at 1311 S. 900 W. where the Lord blessed in a mighty way before the owner of the building decided to tear the building down and added a parking lot. The church then moved to Midvale for a short time before finding a new home in the former New Pilgrim Church building where services were held for about one year. West Valley City is the current home of Deliverance Temple Ministries.

In 1951, Bishop married Alma Stowers and to that union were born four sons: Melvin A III (Anita), Don R. (Wenda), Clyde C.

(Donna) and Victor L. Givens (deceased). In 1960, he married Doris Vanzandt, his lifelong partner. To that union were born four children: Charles M (Jan), Jacquenetta L, Stephen D (JoAn) Givens and Dionne (Adam) Watson.

Bishop Givens was an avid fisherman. He coached Ute Conference Little League Football and Babe Ruth Baseball. He loved people and gave compassionately of his time. He enjoyed a good meal, a good laugh and spending time with his family. His legacy remains behind in the minds and hearts of his family.

Preceded in death by his parents, three siblings, and son Victor, Pastor Mel is survived by his loving wife Doris, seven children, twenty-three grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren and nine siblings.

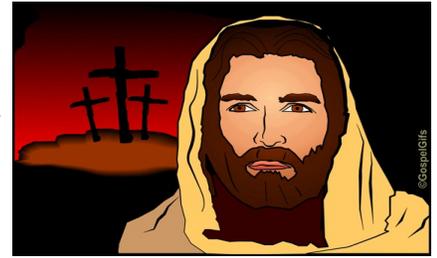
- **Founder and builder of Grace Memorial Church of God in Christ in Boise, Idaho as well as the pastor.**
- **Appointed by Governor R.E. Smiley to the Civil Service Board.**
- **Organized the first NAACP Branch and was elected president in Boise, Idaho.**
- **Consecrated to the office of Bishop in 1966. Jurisdictional Bishop for Idaho and Canada.**
- **Founder and Pastor of Deliverance Temple COGIC in Salt Lake City, Utah.**
- **President Home Mission Board International.**
- **Member of the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship.**
- **Member of International Fellowship of Christian Businessmen.**
- **Member of World Pentecostal Conference.**
- **President of The National Invitational Evangelism Conference.**
- **President of The Ever Living Word of Faith Radio/Television Ministries.**
- **Editor and Publisher of the Mountain West Minority Reporter and Sentinel.**
- **Member of the National Black Publishers Association.**
- **President of the Unified Ministers Fellowship.**
- **Member of the Advisory Board for the Salt Lake City School District.**
- **Member of NAACP and Urban League.**
- **Board of Directors of the Adela Development Corporation.**
- **Served as Administrative Assistant in the Utah COGIC Jurisdiction and Auxiliary Bishop of Utah.**
- **Chairman of the Elders Council and District Superintendent of the Salt Lake City COGIC District.**

**“...Death is swallowed up in Victory.”
 “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Cor 15:54b, 57**

Biblical Resurrection Sunday - Easter

What does the Bible say about Easter?

Jesus rose from the dead with many witnesses.



Mark 16:6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. **7** But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. **8** And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they anything to any man; for they were afraid. **9** Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

The Resurrection is completely necessary to true believers

1 Corinthians 15:12 Now if Christ be preached that He rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: **14** And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. **15** Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. **16** For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: **17** And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

It's our source of true power

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; **11** If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. **12** Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. **13** Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, **14** I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.



He's not here! He has risen from the dead!