



## *About Barton Browning*

### **In Memorium**

Barton Browning was transferred to be face-to-face with the Lord on Monday, 9 January 2012. His wife Onie (Leora) continued to reside comfortably in Houston until her promotion on Sunday, 30 April 2017. Following is Bart's firsthand account of the 53 years they spent in the mission fields:

### **Our Mission**

Our missionary life began in June of 1956 after I completed my studies in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and was ordained by the Highland Park Baptist Church. We were accepted by the Congo Gospel Mission, and our field was to be in the interior of the then, Belgian Congo, now named the Democratic Republic of Congo. My ministry there included the administration of a mission station, overseeing a day school, teaching Bible classes to student pastors, and translating doctrinal notes into Kituba, the African trade language which was spoken in that area.

After around 2-1/2 years of our second term, a civil war broke out in the Congo and our area was instantly under attack. Our station was overrun by rebels who called themselves the Jeunesse (Youth in French). We were held captive until late one evening

in February of 1964, then left stranded for 5 days until 3 U.N. helicopters came to our rescue. We were flown to a large town about 150 miles away, and then on to Leopoldville, now Kinshasa, and eventually back to Chattanooga, Tennessee, the location of our Mission headquarters.

After a few weeks we prepared for a temporary ministry in Mexico while awaiting the time we could return to Africa. I went to Chicago to study the methods used by the group named The Open Air Campaigners. We studied Spanish in Texas for a year, during which time we obtained the financial support and equipment necessary to carry out our new ministry. We lived in Donna,

Texas in order for our children to attend public school. I worked with quite a few of our own missionaries who were in Mexico and most of the Central American countries. This ministry continued for around 6 years.

After the civil war had settled down we did return to the Congo, and we attempted to continue teaching Bible doctrine. Eventually, after about 2-1/2 years some of the "leaders" of the church accused me to the National Council of churches ecumenical officials, of destroying the church. I was accused of all sorts of heresy by one of the political officials and forbidden to teach the Africans. So we left it with them and flew back to America and continued our field in Mexico.

In January of 1974 we moved to Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico to continue my ministry. Onie and I began our study of Spanish again in a private school. I began teaching doctrine in the churches of a Baptist missionary I came to know. I also did a lot of personal evangelism through Mexicans I met when working in Mexico before. This led to several regular places where we met once or twice each week. During this time I began translating the basic Bible booklets taken from doctrinal tapes recorded from lessons taught by R. B. Thieme, Jr. Over a period of 28 years I translated, into Spanish, all of the basics plus 5 more advanced titles.

In 1991, due to health problems, and the rent house, office and printing shop being up for sale, we decided to move to Houston and continue the literature ministry there. We produced the material in our home and sup-

plied churches and individuals with the Spanish doctrinal material as well as prisoners in several states.

My wife, Onie, and I realized that our age (87 and 89), and physical condition had caught up with us. We officially retired the end of 2009 and are residing comfortably in Houston, Texas.

