

## A TEXAS-SIZE STONE

Theresa Martin, Chattanooga, Tennessee

How do we remember? We put up memorials - things like statues and signs that hopefully will help those in the present recall activities of those of the past and learn from what they did so that we act faithfully with boldness and courage today.



In California and Canton, China yellow stars were put up as stained glass windows in Cumberland Presbyterian churches.

The one in San Francisco is located in the heart of San Francisco, a big city crowded with businesses and stores on streets that go up hill and down. People of all colors and languages walk these streets – people who speak Chinese, Mandarin, Spanish and English walk these streets. The Cumberland Presbyterian churches in California are serving faithfully. They continue to be thankful for those who enabled them to be what they are today.

I heard about the star in the California church when we attended a presbytery meeting in San Francisco and later the speaker at Presbytery said, “We must be thankful for the women of Texas. Without their efforts, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church would not be alive in California.”

That was a surprise to me. The distance from Texas to California is a long one, and the churches of Texas in pioneer days were certainly not known for being rich or affluent. They had their own struggles. Yet, evidently they had thought about and been concerned about those who needed help outside the borders of their own communities and their state – the great state of Texas. I wanted to know: “Who were these women?”

The stars were placed to call us to remember Ollie Glass Baucom and others like her who were dedicated, faithful and who unselfishly gave their lives away. Ollie was the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. W.S. Glass and a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church since her childhood. She married Rev. O. N. Baucom after serving as state organizer for the Texas Women’s Synodical Society. She lived in Texas and organized many women’s missionary societies and worked hard until her death on December 26, 1919.

Rev. W.A. Boone said: “She has done more piecing together . . .of the church . . .than any other one person.” (*History of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Texas* by Thomas A. Campbell)

In memory of her faithful, unselfish service, the Texas Women’s Synodical Society placed memorial windows in the San Francisco and Canton mission buildings. The CP Women’s Ministry in the Lubbock, Texas church is still named the Ollie Baucom Circle.

*Dedicated – Faithful – Unselfishly gave her life away.* Is that how we want to be described and remembered?

### **Discussion Questions and Reflection Activities**

Scripture: Joshua 4: 1-9

Certain people stand out as witnesses in every new work for Christ. They plant, they preach, they nurture, and they encourage. The star on whom Theresa Martin's lesson focuses, is one of those who not only worked diligently in her local church, but whose concern for the spread of the Word of God in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church extended beyond her horizons.

Mrs. Baucom and many others like her, have labored in their local Women's Ministry, and have given of their time and talents in the spread of the gospel as well. While we now have many congregations who make up our Cross-Cultural work, Mrs. Baucom and others embraced one of our early Cross-Cultural churches. Let us be thankful for this "stone" who is remembered as a pioneer in missions, a true star.

#### **Questions:**

Who is responsible for the planting of your local congregation?

Do you have a written history of the Women's Ministry of your church? Or a pictorial history? If so, bring it out and share it with participants. If not, discuss how you can go about creating such a historical record.

If you are a new Women's Ministry, do you have a Historian who will faithfully keep a record of your events and ministries? If your group does not have a historian, then you might want to consider adding that officer and discuss together some of the tasks/projects in the coming weeks.

What can you tell your children about these "Stones"?

Do you have a program for assisting with the establishment of new Women's Ministries in your Presbyteries? in any cross-cultural fellowships in your area?

#### **Prayer:**

Today let us thank God for his faithful people who have gone before us. May we rededicate ourselves to obtaining a good testimony for the sake of those who will come later.