

## WHAT I HAVE SEEN IN SIXTY-SEVEN YEARS # 20

While living in Mt. Pleasant, Tx., 1964-1966, early in the year, 1966, I received a call from the Timberland Drive Church of Christ in Lufkin, Tx., asking me to move to Lufkin and work with them in spreading the gospel of Christ. The phone call and the invitation caught me by surprise and I was somewhat taken aback, for the moment. I ask the brother if I could think about it for a couple of days and I would get back with him soon. When I returned his call, I realized I was talking with one of the Elders; and thus, suggested to him that I had some questions, concerning the work in Lufkin, before I give him an answer.

The first question I had was: *"Are you considering anyone else, at this time, to work with you in Lufkin? If you are then please determine whether you want him or not and if you do not have anyone else in mind I will be most happy to talk with you."* I then was asked, *"Why do you ask this question?"* To which I replied: *"I do not want to be in competition with my preaching brethren."* This brother fully assured me that the Elders had determined they wanted me and would like for me to come to Lufkin, Tx. and be involved in the work of the Lord with them.

The next question had to do with the condition of the congregation and where they came from. The Elder explained that they came from the Fourth and Groesbeck Church of Christ, there in Lufkin. This was a peaceful departure and that the congregation was fully determined to stand against all the errors of the day. He then told me that the former preacher was Charles A. Holt and that the church divided because of his efforts and another church, in Lufkin, was formed. At present the congregation had settled down and it seemed headed for a peaceful existence. I then was informed that they needed someone to come and do a successful work for the Lord.

I then inquired if there would be any restrictions on what I was to preach? The response was, *"All we ask is that you preach what is in the Bible, you will have no problems with us about 'Bible Preaching.'"*

I took a close look at what could be accomplished in Lufkin and considered the work I would be leaving and felt much good could be accomplished in Lufkin. I determined to move and be a part of the work of the Timberland Dr. Church of Christ. So, in June of 1966 I arrived in Lufkin and began a work there. This continued until August of 1972, at which time I moved to Denver, Colorado. To begin with I did not ask what the salary would be. I did not want to be motivated by money. The salary, I learned after I got there was generous and they continued to increase my salary through the years.

This was a very peaceful work with a fifteen minute radio program each Sunday morning. It just happened that bro. Charles A. Holt had a radio program also. He continually tried to get me in a conflict with him; but, I had determined that was what he wanted me to do, so avoided all contact with his radio program. There were several preachers who approached me and requested I become involved in a discussion with bro. Holt – according to them someone in Lufkin needed to call his hand. I asked them where they lived and they said, Lufkin. I then told them why don't you do what you are requesting me to do?

When brother Holt left Lufkin, he stated on his radio program: *"I am going to do something the Devil has not done and never will do, I am leaving Lufkin."* In response to his statement I put an article in my bulletin about him leaving and closed the article by stating: *"We are going to do something the Devil has not done, and never will do, we are going to let him go."* I felt I had the last word in the matter. Caa .....

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