

## Mother Williams: A Great Woman of Faith

*Rosalie Beck—Waco, TX*

**L**ucinda Williams, Mrs. W. L. Williams of Dallas, helped found First Baptist, Dallas, committed enormous time to the women's work among Texas Baptists, and provided inspiration for countless Texans. As a strong woman of God, Mother Williams possessed a spirit of joy and love that permeated everything she did.

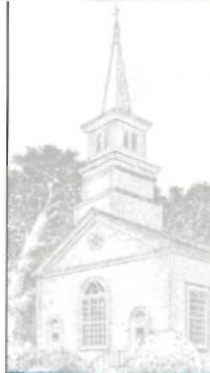
When Lucinda and W. L. moved to Dallas in the 1860s, she asked their landlady for the location of a Baptist church. The landlady told them there wasn't one, so Lucinda went through the neighborhood, found other Baptists, and arranged for them to meet in a nearby Masonic Lodge. When the group became large enough, they formed FBC, Dallas. A member of this church until her death, Mother Williams supported the work of the kingdom faithfully through the local church.

Missions always played a large part in Mother Williams' life. Committed to supporting and praying for missions, when the Texas Baptist women organized, she was ready to help. In 1895, after working in various positions within the Baptist Women Mission Workers organization, Mother Williams became the president. When she stepped down in 1906, the Texas WMU was financially solvent, growing in many areas of work, especially among children and young people, and a major support for the general work of the BGCT. Integrity, love, care, and humor marked the years of wise leadership she provided for Texas WMU.

A strong advocate of education for women, especially missionary volunteers, Mother Williams helped found a women's training school in Dallas in the early 1900s. Although the school closed in 1906, the idea stuck. When the Women's Training School at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary opened in 1910, with the support of Texas WMU, Mother Williams lent her support, living in the school and helping the women students. On a daily basis she influenced future women leaders of Baptist work, not just in Texas but around the world.

Mother Williams died in 1931 at the age of 83. Spending most of her life in Texas, she enriched the Lord's work through her patience, persistence, love of local church, love of missions, and absolute commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

**At her death, thousands expressed an outpouring of heartfelt thanks for her life, her witness, her commitment. She was a great woman of faith, a great woman of Texas Baptist life.**



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