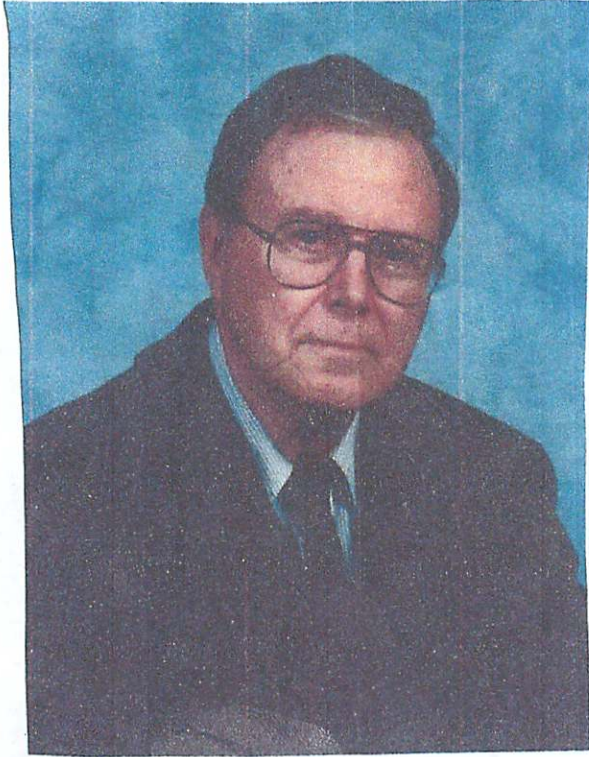


*Wonderful the matchless  
grace of Jesus,  
Deeper than the mighty  
rolling sea!*

*-Haldor Lillenas*



**BOONEVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



# *Joe Durwood Powlas*

April 8, 1927 - January 21, 2016

Joe, being Joe > left specific directions to be followed concerning his funeral. He will be buried in the Cow Creek cemetery. There will be no funeral or visitation> only a grave-side service. This too Joe scripted and it will be conducted according to his wishes. Joe wrote the following: "Sing no sad songs for me, "the poet wrote. Rather, let us rejoice and sing and give glory to God for the beauty and the happiness of the Christian faith and for the promises God has given to those who love and trust him!

Joe Durwood Powlas, beloved pastor, friend and brother, died peacefully at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky on January 21, 2016. He was born to Joe Marcellus Powlas and Lessie Sheets Powlas on April 8, 1927 in Salisbury, North Carolina. He graduated from Crossnore High School, Crossnore, N.C., Catawba College, Salisbury, N.C. and Louisville Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He originally wanted to be a missionary in India, but while in seminary, field work took him to Owsley County and following his graduation it was here in the hills of Ky. that his ministry began and continued for 64 years. He faithfully served the Cow Creek Presbyterian Church, the Booneville Presbyterian Church and the Indian Creek Presbyterian Church, preaching three times each Sunday. He also traveled extensively in the central, eastern and southeastern states sharing the work of the Presbyterian Church in the mountains of Kentucky

He also was the author of fifteen books including *The Church with the Golden Roof*, *To walk in Heaven*, *The Bishop of Stinking Creek Hollow* and *Angels at My Door*.

Among other honors, he was the recipient of the 1974 Shepherd of the Hills Humanitarian Award. The 1993 Crossnore School Alumnus of the Year, and the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary 1996 Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Rather than sending flowers, he asked that any donations in his memory be made to The Hope Center, 360 W. Loudon Avenue, Lexington, Ky 40508.

Joe is survived by his twin sisters, Jane Johnson of Newland, N.C., and Laura Johnson Dorrer and husband John of Brunswick, Maine, his brother Jerry Johnson and wife Elizabeth of Etowah, N.C. and many friends.

Joe often said that he could not imagine any man on earth who had had a happier life. He lived his faith every day. He walked with dignity and was a man of humor and song. He will be remembered with the greatest affection by all who knew him.

To quote from his book, *The Church with the Golden Roof*, "I now close the door, leaving behind a valley and a people whom I have loved so deeply."

## Saved By Grace

*Theodore Roosevelt served as a Colonel* during the Spanish American War in Cuba. As the story goes, he wanted to buy provisions from the Red Cross for the sick and wounded men under his command, but his request was refused.

Roosevelt was troubled; he cared about his men and was ready to pay for the food himself. "How can I get these things?" he asked. "I must have proper food for my sick men."

"Just ask for them, Colonel," said the surgeon in charge of the Red Cross headquarters.

"Oh," said the Colonel, "then I do ask for them." And he got them at once; but you notice he got them through grace, not through purchase. This story illustrates the familiar scripture of Ephesians 2:8: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

Another illustration from the past may help us understand what it means to receive grace. The first Queen Elizabeth survived several assassination attempts throughout her lifetime. "Would you be my subject if I should exercise grace instead of justice and forgive your crime?" she asked one of her would-be assassins.

"That, madam, would be no grace at all, to found your grace on the condition of my merit."

"Then I pardon you unconditionally," said the queen.

"That," replied her thankful subject, "is queenly grace, and now I am your slave forever." Neither do we receive God's grace based on our good works. We serve Him and do His work in gratitude for His grace after He has saved us.

Ephesians 2:9-10 says, "Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Oh the joy of receiving and living in God's grace, and the calming assurance it brings to the heart of every believer!

*Paul J. Twist*

Printed in USA

