



## What is a Baptist?

Written by Dan Pearce,  
Director of Missions

In this world where words change their meanings, maybe we need a new definition of what Baptist means. Dick Ross was what a Baptist means, along with thousands of others like him, that are faithful to the end of life; to God and to the Bible. Dick died a Baptist to the core on March 28, 2018 at 76 years old. He was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas to a Baptist Family in a place where Baptists were common. His real name was Richard, but everybody called him Dick or Mr. Baptist.

He married a Baptist, Miss Norma Thomas, and they had four Baptist children: Sandy, Randy, Ronnie and Richard. Mr. Baptist went to Eastern New Mexico University where he served in the Baptist Student Union, and he attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He served as pastor in Baptist Churches in Lovington, NM, Lordsburg, NM, Placerville, CA, Silver City, NM, Renton, WA, and Highland in Clovis, NM. His service continued as Director of Missions for the Plains Baptist and Portales Baptist Associations. Towards the end of his ministry he became an interim pastor to help Baptist Churches find a pastor. He became the Minister of Miscellaneous (that was Dick's term for being an Associate Pastor) at Central Baptist Church in Clovis. Since 1982 he served as a Baptist Chaplain with the Clovis Police and the Clovis Fire Departments. He served as a Baptist as co-founder of the Critical Incident Stress Management, CISM, in New Mexico. For 12 years Mr. Baptist served as Deputy Director of New Mexico Baptist Disaster Relief. He served many Baptist Disaster Relief teams as a chaplain and in many other ways.



Richard Ross

Like all Baptists, Dick had an opinion and he did not hold back by giving you a piece of his mind. He always sought the best even when he disagreed with others. The stance he took on things was either Biblical or a Baptist Tradition; either way he was hard to convince otherwise. The love that he had for God and God's people in the church was simply incredible. You could say he had a Baptist bent, was Baptist to the bone, and loyal to Baptist in everything he did. Wow! That is what a Baptist really is - a man like Dick Ross.

Each year the Baptist Associations publish an annual report. This year the Eastern Baptist and Tucumcari Baptist Associations' annuals are dedicated to Dick Ross.

December 2018  
Newsletter



Serving Others in Jesus Name

### Eastern Border Associations

Tucumcari Baptist Association & Eastern Baptist Association

**Dan Pearce - Area Missionary**  
ph: 575-309-8010  
email: easternbaptist5@gmail.com

**Elaine Williford - Office Assistant**  
ph: 575-714-7788  
email: easternbaptist6@gmail.com

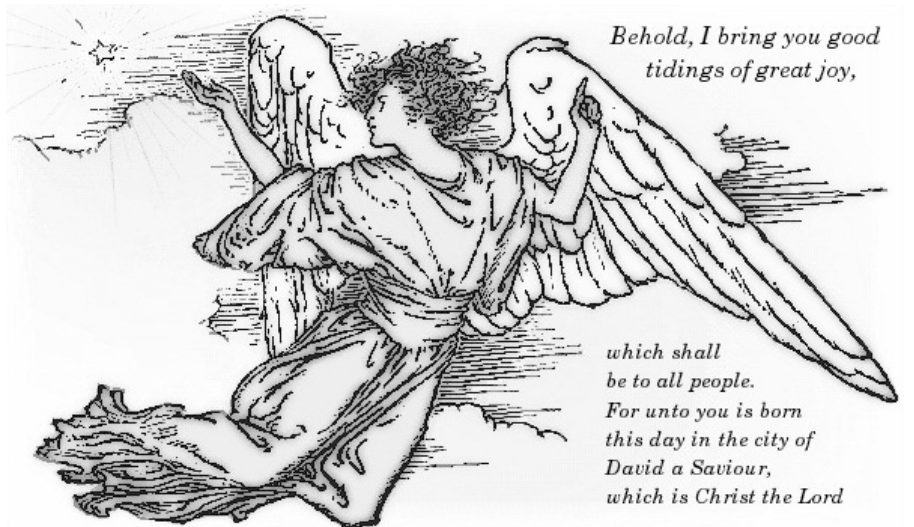
**Office Address:**  
1100 West Manana Blvd.  
Clovis, NM 88101

**Prayer Meeting:**  
Mondays 10:00 Sandia, Clovis

**TBA website:** [www.yourtba.com](http://www.yourtba.com)  
**EBA website:** [www.easternbaptist.net](http://www.easternbaptist.net)



**NOTICE:**  
The Association  
Office will close  
Dec. 24- Jan. 1



*Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,*

*which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord*

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!