

## **Doug Lawyer, early missionary to Nigeria**

### **By Charla Lawyer**

Marion Douglas Lawyer was born in Blackwater, MO, October 2, 1927 and went home to be with the Lord on December 29, 1998 at age 71. He graduated from Harding University in 1949 and continued his education by receiving a Master's Degree in History from Texas Tech University in 1960. Doug began his service to God at age 15 when he preached his first sermon in Arkansas. His life was dedicated to preaching the gospel and caring for those in need at towns and cities in Arkansas, Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma. Additionally, he, along with his wife and three small daughters, served on the mission field in Nigeria, West Africa from 1961 to 1965. Cindi, their third daughter was born at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Umuahia, Nigeria, six weeks after their arrival in Nigeria.

While in Nigeria, Doug taught in the Bible Training College at Onicha Ngwa as well as serving as its head during a portion of their tour of duty. On weekends and during school breaks, he and fellow missionaries traveled to many villages and remote locations preaching, establishing churches and leading a large number of the native Nigerians to Christ. He also worked diligently with Dr. Henry Farrar and others in negotiations with native chiefs and government officials which led to the subsequent establishment of the Nigerian Christian Hospital.

During their stay in Nigeria, his wife, Charla, taught ladies Bible classes and started a Sunday afternoon Bible class for nearby village children on the school compound.

Upon their return from Nigeria in 1965, Doug continued his service to churches of Christ. At the time of his death, he was one of the ministers at the Edmond church of Christ in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Doug 's capacity for compassion was limitless. He served those in need at all hours, touching many lives and sharing the burdens of those in pain, sorrow or weathering difficult times. He was untiring in his dedication to the Lord, a loving husband and father, a man who met no strangers and loved everyone. He is sorely missed by his family and his myriad of friends.