

Luther Clyde Benson

Luther Clyde Benson was born November 2, 1882, near Statesville, North Carolina. In 1893 he moved to Mecklenberg County where he was contracted as a farm helper until he reached his twenty first birthday.

His early schooling was possible only when farm work was not pressing, never getting more than three months each year, and then mostly listening to the instructions of older children. In 1902 he was able to leave the farm and went to Roanoke, Virginia and became a plumber's apprentice. After a year and a half he became deeply absorbed in religion and decided to enter the ministry. He moved to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in the summer of 1903 and that fall entered grade school at Marysville. He worked during the fall months to earn school expenses, many times eighteen hours a day and one day twenty-two hours shoveling coal at seven cents per hour.

By working and studying, studying and working, preaching at small churches, he completed his training at Hamline University in the spring of 1915.

On February 11, 1907, he was married to Anna Branstag in Glenwood, Minnesota. To this union five children were born.

A lifelong dream was near fulfillment when he was admitted on trial in the Minnesota Annual Conference in the fall of 1915, and then in 1917, he received his elder's ordination and ministerial preparation was complete.

Luther Benson served several churches in the Minnesota Conference, including Elk River, Clinton, Wilmar, Hector, and Olivet in Minneapolis, before coming to South Dakota