



Ohio's Premier Missionary

Ray E. Roberts

1915-1988

**The Man for Whom the Ohio
State Missions Offering Is Named**

Dr. Roberts, a native of North Carolina, first visited Ohio in 1951. During that visit, Robert's observed that Ohio appeared to be ready to harvest, a ripe mission field.

In the spring of 1952 the Home Mission Board, the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and the White Water Baptist Association partnered to call Ray Roberts to serve as their missionary in Ohio. Ray moved his family to Ohio on July 4. During the following eighteen months, he led in the organization of twenty new churches. Ray has been quoted saying, "Here in Ohio, the big pond where the fishin' is good."

A year and a half later, on January 8, 1954 Roberts brought Baptist believers in Ohio together and organized the State Convention of Baptist in Ohio with thirty-nine churches and ten thousand members. Robert's served as Executive Secretary for twenty-five years. During that time the convention grew from one to fourteen associations, added four hundred ten churches, and one hundred three missions.

Dr. Roberts' Dream

. . . a Baptist church in every community in the state. In his first message to the White Water Baptist Association, he said, "It is my deep conviction that the ripest field for Southern Baptist work . . . lies within the boundaries of Ohio. There are no geographical boundaries in the Great Commission."



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