

Dr. Charles F. Billington *N8XKH* Of Copley, Ohio. Born 1927 in the Akron area. The Billington's are a household word in the Bible Belt and have served the region for 70 years. Dallas Billington, Chuck's father, began preaching revival campaigns in Ohio, Ky and Indiana while continuing to hold his job at Goodyear.



In 1932 Billington's began a successful radio broadcast at one of Cleveland's pioneer stations WJW. Two years later a group of listeners asked Dallas to come and preach to them. Thirteen people met and formed the foundation for what was to be for many years the largest Sunday School in the world.

The church continued to grow and in 1939 they were running 1,800 in attendance. On Easter Sunday, 1943, there were 10,123 in attendance at the morning services. The Akron Baptist Temple was the largest Sunday school in the world in 1971, the year before founder Dallas Billington expired.

Dallas Billington 1903-1972 left this earth and the family continued on the Billington tradition. At his death, his son, Charles, N8XKH became Senior Pastor of the 17,000 member church his father had started.

If you will, titles are created for places such as Akron Baptist Temple, Mega-Churches etc. This independent Baptist group with 12 acres of blacktop and many buildings, changed faces over the years with one building program after another, with a major fire and immediate rebuild. One of my favorite evangelists preached here at ABT in special meetings, Evangelist B.R. Lakin - Dr. Lakin conducted the funeral of his friend Dallas Billington in 1972. Hearing Rev. Lakin was a special treat and one would not forget his down home style of preaching.

Churchanity is not without its problems; In 1941 Rev. Dallas was cited for using a loudspeaker to broadcast services to overflow crowds outside the building. Billington defended his and the church's rights before a jury. A crowd of several thousand cheered when he was acquitted of the charge of disorderly conduct. Editorials in the Akron Beacon Journal backed the embattled preacher. Again in 1942, when informed that the local bus company could not provide transportation to and from his services, Billington protested to the federal government. He argued that if the 21 contracted buses were not permitted to bring people to church, then beer trucks should also be barred from the streets of Akron. Within three weeks, bus service was resumed and the story was carried throughout the country by nearly 3,000 newspapers.

Dr. Charles F. Billington N8XKH retired as Senior Pastor in 1996 and his Son Dallas R. took over, voted by ballot as Senior Pastor, carrying on the Billington tradition. W8SU 2006