

Bosworth Matters

Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2019

Website: ffbosworth.strikingly.com

ON THIS DAY (August 21): F.F. Bosworth Pens Letter about His Beating

He was brutally assaulted for preaching to
a black audience near Hearne, Texas

By Roscoe Barnes III, PhD

Author, *F.F. Bosworth: The Man Behind "Christ the Healer"*

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#FFBosworth

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Elias Birdsall (left) and F.F. Bosworth
outside home in Dallas, Texas.

Reminder: "F.F. Bosworth History" is now on Twitter. Follow @bosworth_fred

On Aug. 21, 1911, F.F. Bosworth wrote a letter about a beating he endured because of his ministry to blacks at a camp meeting near Hearne, Texas. In the letter, which he addressed to his mother, he described the assault as a "mobbing" that left him with a fractured wrist and bruises on his back. The men, all white, reportedly struck him with wooden clubs. Bosworth said his "flesh was mashed to the bone on my back down nearly to my knees."

The mob, which consisted of 25 men, had urged him and his friend to leave town. One of the men had a revolver and seemed determined to shoot Bosworth and his friend. He said they "cursed us for coming there as they said to put them on a level with the d-niggers." While Bosworth was standing outside the depot and waiting for his train to Dallas, the men attacked him. He wrote:

[A] larger mob of about 25 took me from the depot and knocked me down and pounded me with heavy hardwood clubs with all their power, cursing and declaring that I would never preach again when they were through with me. As they pounded me with these heavy clubs (made from the oar of a boat), I offered no resistance, but committed myself to God and asked him not to let the blows break my spine.

God stood wonderfully by me and no bones were broken except a slight fracture in my left wrist. When they left off pounding me with the clubs as I got up others of the mob who had no clubs knocked me down hitting me in the head with their fists. I was knocked down several times but was not for a moment unconscious, which was miracle of God's care.

When the beating subsided, Bosworth stood and grabbed his "heavy suitcase." He began a nine-mile walk to Calvert, praying along the way. He said God gave him strength. During his walk, he prayed for the men who assaulted him.

Bosworth's letter appeared in the Summer 1986 issue of *A/G Heritage* magazine. The magazine's editor noted:

Persecution in the early years of the Pentecostal movement was common. F.F. Bosworth's descriptive letter to his mother, a copy of which was donated to the Archives by his son Bob, is reprinted here. The two mobs which attacked him did so because he ministered at a black church camp meeting near Hearne, Texas. Bosworth founded what is now First Assembly in Dallas. Earlier he had been associated with John Alexander Dowie and Zion City, Illinois.

#OnThisDay #OTD #ThisDayInHistory #ThisDayInFFBosworthHistory #Pentecostal
#Revival #AssembliesOfGod #HearneTexas #ChurchHistory #PublicHistory #CFNI
#ORU #BosworthMention

Note: My book, *F.F. Bosworth: The Man Behind "Christ the Healer,"* can be purchased **here** with a 25% discount. Use the discount code: **bosworth25**.

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about F.F. Bosworth?***

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Visit the **F.F. Bosworth page here**. Questions about the research and commentary on F.F. Bosworth may be directed to **Roscoe Barnes III, Ph.D.**, via email at doctorbarnes3@gmail.com or roscoebarnes3@yahoo.com. For updates on F.F. Bosworth history, simply follow this blog or **@bosworth_fred** and **@Roscoebarnes3** on Twitter.
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