

HYMN TIME

"Greetings, friends. This is J. C. Yoakum and you're listening to ***Hymn Time***." If you had been a resident of Calhoun County, Georgia in the mid-1970's, you may have recognized these words and the familiar voice that spoke them.

Early in 1973, J. C. & Reba Yoakum made the decision to purchase air-time each week on the local 500 watt AM station, WCUG in Cuthbert, Georgia. With Reba doing the research and script-writing and J. C. the narration, they produced twenty-two, original half-hour broadcasts in their living room on an old reel-to-reel recorder, and aired the programs cyclically for the next three years.

Both Yoakums were natives of Mississippi and long-time Primitive Baptists. They were the first couple married by a newly ordained, seventeen year-old minister named Elder Joe Holder. It was my privilege to know them and enjoy their Christian fellowship for eleven years while I pastored a church in the area. Both are now at home with the Lord, but through the efforts they made to use their spiritual talents on a very local level, they continue minister to God's people through song, now with the potential of an even larger (even international) audience, these four decades later.

Br Yoakum was the song leader at Mars Hill Primitive Baptist Church and had played a strategic role in laboring to improve the quality of congregational hymn singing among Primitive Baptist churches in SW Georgia and SE Alabama. Both J. C. & Reba were "salt of the earth" kind of people. They lived to serve others.

It is probably important to highlight the fact, however, that they were not professional broadcasters. Those who listen to these digitized recordings of the original "Hymn Time" recordings with a critical ear may find occasion for criticism. At times, one may hear a large truck pass by the house on the highway. The technical quality of recording is typical of the technology that existed in the early 1970's.

Although these recordings may not measure up to the professional standards of

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