

H-R MARCH 6, 2003

Joseph W. Stratford

Joseph (Joe) W. Stratford, 68, of Lynnville died Monday, March 3, 2003, of heart failure at Mercy Hospital Medical Center in Des Moines.

A funeral service will be held Friday, March 7, at 10:30 a.m. in the Altoona Regular Baptist Church in Altoona with the Rev. Chris Humburg, pastor of the church, and the Rev. David Little of Ohio, officiating. Friends may call after 5 p.m. Thursday at Pence Funeral Home in Newton with family members present from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The family also will be present from 9 to 10 a.m. Friday at the church in Altoona. Burial will take place Friday at 2:30 p.m. in Woodland Cemetery in Lynnville conducted by the Rev. Don Johnston of Grinnell. Memorials in his name may be made to the Baptist Church Planters in Ohio.

He was born Feb. 14, 1935, in Moore's Corner, Mass., the son of William J. and Gladys E. Simmons Stratford. He attended Elhom Baptist Institute in Castile, N.Y., and received the master of ministry degree from Baptist Bible College, Clark's Summit, Penn.

He was married on Feb. 4, 1956, in Turners Falls, Mass., to Beverly A. Parrott. He was a pastor in the Regular Baptist Church for many years, primarily in Delevan, N. Y., retiring in January, 2000, after which he was a regional field director for the Midwest of the Baptist Church Planter Fund in Ohio. He moved in 2001 from Delevan to Altoona and in 2002 to Lynnville.

He enjoyed all sports, golf, hunting and carpentry.

He is survived by his wife Beverly of Lynnville; five sons, Steven Stratford of Watertown, Wis.; Ronald Stratford of Nashville, Tenn.; Jonathan Stratford of Grinnell, Samuel Stratford, Woodhaven, Miss., and David Stratford of Saline, Miss.; one daughter Virginia Stratford of Altoona; six grandchildren; two brothers Stanley Stratford and Richard Stratford of Massachusetts, and two sisters Edith McIntosh of West Virginia and Mary Alexander of Florida. He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers and four sisters.