

## Eliza Somerville Broadus Monologue



In a Kentucky Baptist church, you will hear the names of three women for whom special missions offerings are named. They are Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, and Eliza Broadus. For a few moments, I will represent Eliza Somerville Broadus and tell you some things about her life.

*I came to Louisville, Kentucky with my family, when the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary moved from Greenville South Carolina in 1877. My father was Dr. John Albert Broadus, a New Testament professor, who later was President of the seminary from 1889 to 1895.*

*I was twenty-six when we came to Kentucky, and had already been a part of the organization of the State Central Committee of South Carolina. I became a member Walnut Street Baptist church and it's missionary society. A year later, in 1878, the Kentucky Central Committee was organized. The objective of these committees was "to organize mission societies and children's bands, to circulate missionary literature and stimulate the spirit of giving to objects fostered by the convention."*

*By this definition, you can see that this was a true beginning of a Kentucky organization for women involved in missions. This is recognized as the beginning of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. The Central Committee became the Kentucky WMU Executive Board, and I was privileged to be an active participant for fifty years.*

*I was not present in Richmond, Virginia in May, 1888 when representatives from several states met in the basement of the Methodist church and formed the organization that became Woman's Missionary Union. However, our three Kentucky delegates nominated me for vice-president from Kentucky. A later meeting in Memphis was my first experience of such a big church full of people. I did not know how to speak publically when a call came 'Louder, please,' but I determined to learn. I practiced in churches at home and my father helped me to articulate each syllable. I mention this because so many women do not seem to know they can improve their delivery.*

*Laying the groundwork for the WMU Training School was an exciting activity. Six of us made up a committee that raised money and began what later became the Carver School of Missions and Social Work. This institution helped women become more educated in missions for more than ninety years.*

*Getting operating funds was a challenge for Kentucky WMU in the early years. At one point, the Central Committee gave a "Musical and Literary Entertainment" at the YMCA Hall which netted \$17.50. When this first expense fund was depleted, committee members used their own stationary and postage along with paying their own way to meetings.*

*State missions causes were always very important to me. It was in 1913 that I led Kentucky WMU to promote a special season of prayer and offering for state missions. Ever since that time, we have had a season of state missions just as we have had a season for home and foreign missions. One of the greatest honors bestowed upon me was in 1975 when Kentucky WMU voted to name the state missions offering for me starting in 1976.*

-Prepared by Anna Mary Byrdwell