



***Of God,  
Rattlesnakes  
& Okra***  
**by**  
**J Bennett  
Easterling**

**MSI Press  
Memoir**

**\$19.95**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***Of God, Rattlesnakes, and Okra a preacher's boy tells his growing-up story***

A heaping slice of old-fashioned Southern storytelling, this book gives readers a taste of genuine American life that will keep them coming back for more. Join the journey as a preacher's kid survives his father's stern discipline, rattlesnakes, and harvesting okra. The deep-fried characters are unforgettable, and the furry and feathered folks will steal the heart of animal lovers. Soaked in faith, people survived the lean, mean times, thanks to the velvet hearts they carried under their calluses, hard work, the good sense to laugh at themselves, and, often, the hand of God. What a delightful legacy they left us! Once you pick up this book, you'll be pleading, "Don't stop now and don't ever grow up!"

*"These stories are of real people triumphing over hard times. It's about a time and place lost to history, at least to recorded history, because poor folks don't often get their names in the paper unless they rob a bank or steal a cow. Yet, it doesn't seem right to let their stories slide into oblivion because they overcame incredible odds. Their stories shine a light on who we are and what kind of stuff we're made of—and they tell us if they did it so can we."*

Excerpt from *Of God, Rattlesnakes, and Okra*

- A long, slow sip from a delightful vessel of remembrance about growing up in the old south as a struggling preacher's son with God right smack dab in the middle of all of it – it just doesn't get any better than this happy yarn! (Tom C. Tsui, Former Director, World Bank Group, Washington, DC)

- A tale of bullfrogs and Baptists, butterbeans and blessings. A story of prospects, preachers and possums, but certainly not prosperity. This telling is worth the reading. A true voice, singing a song of Mississippi. (Barbara G Beck, Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand)

- Sweeter than a real Dixie Iced Tea, this tale of faith-filled innocence will provide more Southern Comfort than Jack Daniels ever could. (Antonio Nedimala, Consultant to U. S. Department of Energy)

- I will not get another thing done because these stories are so fascinating, and I just want to keep reading. (Alice Brown, Leader, Hope Alive Cancer Support Ministry, Church of the Redeemer)

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**Author:** Bennett Easterling was born on a farm in Mississippi as America was coming out of the Great Depression and heading into WWII. Son of a preaching/farming/fur trapping father, he grew up surrounded by grits-eating, deep-fried Southern characters and lovable animals. Having earned BS and MS degrees at the University of Mississippi, he worked for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and as a staff advisor to Congress. His last assignment was with the U.S. Department of Energy, searching for a place to dispose of high-level radioactive wastes—not a wildly popular profession. Ben and his wife Dot are lay leaders at Church of the Redeemer in Gaithersburg, MD.