Dixie Howard Middletown was born on November 15, 1900, in Dayton, Tennessee. While she was still young, she moved with her family to Merkel, Texas, and later to Abilene, where she was director of the college department in Sunday school at Southside Baptist Church. There, she influenced several young people who later became missionaries and preachers. In 1954, Dixie married J.T. “Dub” Middleton, a farmer and rancher, and moved to O’Donnell, Texas. She was an active WBU member, and attended the WMU sessions at the Texas and Southern Baptist Conventions, when possible, with her nieces, Kay Weldon Madaris and Donna Farris, whom she helped to raise after their father died.

Throughout her years, Dixie was very generous with her material wealth, particularly in the education field. Dixie paid for students to go to the Mexican Institute, bought busses for Buchner Baptist Children’s Home in Lubbock, paid for Mexican nursing students to take LVN school in Guadalhara, supported the Foreign Mission Board’s learning center in Richmond, and bought a new playground at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas with a $10,000 gift. Since Wayland was the Baptist University nearest to O’Donnell, where she and her husband made their living, Dixie left money to Wayland so that students going on to church work can have the scholarships they need to do God’s will.