

heard Emma's voice, "I'm over here – I made it". This statement consoled him and gave him the strength to carry on alone.

Elias lived for about ten more years after Emma's death. He continued to live in Somerset, and eventually moved into a retirement community in the city. He lived a productive life as a retired preacher, and wrote one autobiography and two semi-autobiographical novels:

*Reiflich or the Arrival of Peter Klein*

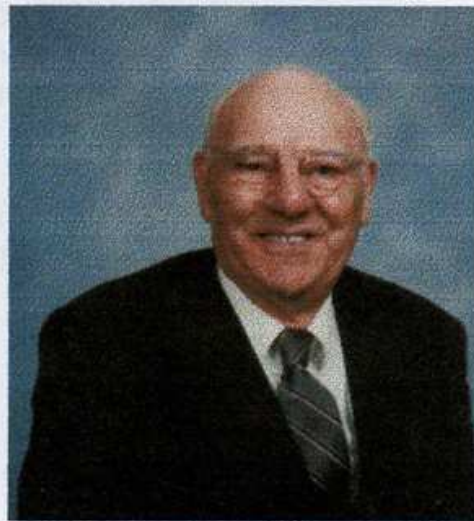
Published in 1985

*Those Three Score Years and Ten*

Published in 1986

*Reiflich and Sequel as a Country Preacher  
Discovers While Searching the Scriptures*

Published in 1987



He often travelled to see family or attend family events and had a quick mind until the day of his death. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren recall his hearty laugh, his stories of Pennsylvania, his thick beard (he shaved twice daily), and his long, long prayers.

He died on January 18, 1992, at the age of 87. Elias had made meticulous plans for his death and burial, including the order of service. At the Belmont United Methodist Church, the Reverend Fred Doverspike presided as the congregation sang Eli's favorite hymn,

*When Christ shall come,  
With shouts of acclamation,  
And take me home,  
What joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow  
In humble adoration  
And there proclaim,  
"My God, how great Thou art!"*

His body was transported to the Salem United Methodist Church cemetery, within 20 yards of Deep Creek Valley Road, where Eli had spent most of his life. He was buried alongside his wife Emma.