

## **SOLID ROCK CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST HISTORY**

***I will love You, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.***

Many have said that Solid Rock Church of God in Christ is a pillar of strength in the community; with the power and authority of Jesus Christ we can testify to this truth, however, this church came into existence through a journey of faith, prayers, and vision. A vision that was given to Pastor and Lady Simpkins

The first worship service of the Solid Rock Church of God in Christ began officially Sunday morning, January 25, 1998 at the Kennedy Park Community Center in Union City, California. It was the launching of many years of prophecy and prayer concerning the assignment of life for Jerald K Simpkins. There was great excitement and expectation for a move of God as Pastor Simpkins, Lady Sheila Simpkins and a few individuals who were led by the Lord to begin this ministry.

The first several years of ministry with Solid Rock Church was a time of travel which required discipline, determination and confidence that we were being led of the Lord. God was faithful to send committed Saints and families to undergird the call to ministry of "The Rock." Families like the Lamberts, Morris, Boyds, Franklins, Jacksons, McKnights, Kings, Ralphs, Colliers, Henrys, Simpkins, Blackwells, Taylors, Aubrys, Champions, Graysons and other faithful individuals sacrificed tremendously to establish a genesis for the ministry.

Solid Rock Church would worship in several locations in Union City during the first seven years including Kennedy Community Center, Tri City African Methodist Church, A tent on the Mission Blvd, Brown Temple Church of God in Christ, the Union City Adult School and at times Solid Rock Church worshiped outdoors in the Kennedy Park.

The church purchased land on Mission Boulevard in Union City and prepared to build a brand new edifice, but after a few years of back and forth with Union City officials and the city council the property was taken by eminent domain by the City of Union City. How heartbreaking we were after working so hard and giving our very best to do that which we believed God had assigned us to. We found a building that the city allowed us to occupy and began to beautify that "storefront" church.

Solid Rock Church continued to grow and the ministry in that building was rich with the anointing. The Rock worshipped there for approximately one year and then came the miraculous promise of God.

Fasting and prayer was essential in acquiring a permanent home for Solid Rock C.O.G.I.C. We encountered many trails and setbacks but God is glorified in all things! After many obstacles.

The Lord blessed Solid Rock to complete the purchase of our present Newark, CA location in 2005. The building was pretty rough and needed quite a lot of work, but just like Nehemiah, “*so built we the wall for the people had a mind to work!*” The Lord allowed Solid Rock to purchase and over the years renovate, remodel and refresh our Home Of Worship – and for this we are eternally grateful.

As time went on, priced out of the Bay Area economy, many members moved to the inland valley. With our Pastor’s vision and desire to serve God’s people everywhere, in 2018 the Lord saw fit to expand their territory to a second location in Tracy, CA. This was truly a miracle and God has prospered the ministry in its new vineyards.