

CHURCH HISTORY 1998-PRESENT

THE HISTORICAL EVENTS OF THE ORIGIN OF THE DIVINE INSPIRATION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IS FILLED WITH BLESSINGS, HAPPINESS, SOME UNCERTAINTY BUT FOUNDED IN FAITH. THERE HAS BEEN A SPIRIT OF GRATITUDE, MUCH DETERMINATION AND HARD WORK ALL MIXED WITH PRAYER.

OUR JOURNEY BEGAN IN OCTOBER 1998 WHEN A GROUP OF TEN BELIEVERS MET AT THE HOME OF SISTER JEAN CRAWFORD. THEY EXPRESSED A DESIRE OF HOPE TO REMAIN IN FELLOWSHIP WITH PASTOR WASE J. SIMMONS. THE GROUP CALLED ITSELF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND A PORTION OF THAT GROUP PRESENTLY SERVES AS TRUSTEE/DIRECTORS OF THE CHURCH. A FEW DAYS LATER, AN INITIAL MEETING WAS HELD AT THE LIVING TESTIMONY BAPTIST CHURCH TO PRAY AND SEEK GOD'S DIRECTION ON HOW TO APPROACH THE PRAYERFUL DESIRES OF CONCERNED DISPLACED MEMBERS TO ORGANIED A NEW CHURCH BODY. THE HOPE WAS THAT TWENTY-FIVE ADULTS MIGHT SHOW UP AS PROOF OF COMMITMENT TO FORMULATE A NEW CHURCH BODY. WHEREAS, THE TARGET NUMBER WAS TWENTY-FIVE, THIRTY-THREE SHOWED UP. WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME WE HAD SHARING AND EXPRESSING THE LOVE THAT WAS SO PREVALENT AND THE HOLY SPIRIT EXHIBITED HIS PRESENCE AS SHOUTS OF JUBILATION TOOK PLACE. WE CALLED THAT A NIGHT OF BLESSED ASSURANCE THAT WE REALLY COULD REMAIN TOGETHER AS A FAMILY AND LED BY PASTOR WADE J. SIMMONS.

WE WENT FORWARD FROM THAT THURSDAY NIGHT AS A CHURCH BODY. IT WAS OUR DESIRE TO MEET TOGETHER AT OUR OWN TIME. HOWEVER, WE WERE WITHOUT A PLACE OF WORSHIP. THE FIRST SUNDAY IN OCTOBER 1998, PASTOR R. G. SIMMONS AND THE LIVING TESTIMONY BAPTIST CHURCH INVITED US TO WORSHIP COLLECTIVELY WITH THEIR CONGREGATION. HE ALLOWED PASTOR WADE J. SIMMONS TO PREACH THAT SUNDAY AND FOR OUR CHURCH TO RECEIVE OUR OFFERING SEPARATELY. IT WAS TURLY A BLESSING THAT OUR FIRST OFFERING WAS OVER \$1200.00.

STILL WE WERE WITHOUT A PLACE OF WORSHIP. IT WAS OUR DESIRE TO WORSHIP FREELY BUT INDEPENDENTLY. SO AFTER CONSIDERING OTHER PLACES, PASTOR R. G. SIMMONS WAS APPROACHED WITH THE IDEA OF ALLOWING OUR CHURCH BODY TO WORSHIP AT 8:00 A.M., TO WHICH HE AGREED. AT 9:30 A.M. WE JOINED COLLECTIVELY WITH THEIR SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT AND OUR SERVICES ENDED AT THE TIME THEIR MORNING WORSHIP BEGAN.

MONDAY NIGHTS WERE OUR TIME FOR PRAYING, PLANNING, FELLOWSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL EMPHASIS AND SO WE DID. FROM OCTOBER 1998 THROUGH JANUARY 2000, PASTOR WADE J. SIMMONS TAUGHT. WE DEALT WITH FINANCIAL MATTERS, AUXILIARY NEEDS AND ALSO FELLOWSHIPED WITH OTHER CONGREGATIONS AS WE CONTINUED OUR JOURNEY.

WE WILL BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL FOR THE LIVING TESTIMONY BAPTIST CHURCH AND HER MEMBERS FOR EXTENDING THEMSELVES TO US IN OUR EARLY EXISTENCE. THROUGH THEIR HOSPITALITY AND LOVE, WE HAD A PLACE TO MEET INDEPENDENTLY AND FELLOWSHIP IN HARMONY AND DELIGHT.

THOSE FIRST THREE MONTHS IN 1998 WER WERE KNOWN UNOFFICIALLY AS THE "NEW CHURCH" OR AS" THE CHURCH WITH NO NAME." BY THE END OF DECEMBER 1998, THE MEMBERSHIP WAS ABOUT 60 ADULTS AND CHILDREN.

IN JANUARY 1999, WITH TOTAL INPUT OF THE CONGREGATION, AND AFTER WEEKS OF PLANNING, IT WAS DECLARED THAT OUR NAME WOULD BE AND IS "DIVINE INSPIRATION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH." INTERESTINGLY, THE NAME CHOSEN WS SUGGESTED BY SISTER YVETTE SIMMONS AND SISTER VERONICA PETERS. WE DO BELIEVE THAT ALL THAT WE ARE AND HAVE BEEN W AS DIVINELY INSPIRED BY GOD. DURING OUR NAME SELECTION PROESS, OTHER FAVORITY PROPOSED NAMES WERE COMBINED AND BECAME OUR CHURCH MOTO: "A CHURCH OF LIVING FAITH, ON ONE ACCORD, DOING THINGS GOD'S WAY."

ON FEBRUARY1, 1999 AT 7:30 P.M., AN OFFICIAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING WS HELD AT THE LIVING TESTIMONY BAPTIST CHURCH. THE FOLLOWING PASTORS WERE IN ATTENDANCE: PASTOR R. G. SIMMONS, HOST, REV. W. B. SIMON, SOUTH DALLAS BAPTIST CHURCH, MODERATOR, REV. TERRENCE JOHNSON, GREATER SUNRISE BAPTIST CHURCH AND

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REV. B. T. WATSON, COLLEGE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH, WHO ARE SOME OF THE STATES FINEST MINISTERS TO BE A PART OF THE DECLARATION THAT WE WERE NOW FULLY AND COMPLETELY ORGANIZED AS THE DIVINE INSPIRATION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH INCORPORATED.

AT THAT ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING, WE REMEMBER THE LOVING AND STERN COUNSEL OF PASTOR R. G. SIMMONS WHO ENCOURAGED THE CHURCH TO BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND GO FORTH; TO MAKE SURE WE WERE FOR REAL AND STAY WITH THE LORD IN ALL WE DO. FROM THAT TIME, WE DID GO FORTH. WE DID CONTINUE AT THE LIVING TESTIMONY BAPTIST CHURCH FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS AND WITH NOMINAL EXPENSES IT ALLOWED THE CHURCH TO PURCHASE LAND IN LANCASTER, TX AND THE BUILDING WHICH WE NOW OCCUPY.

IT WAS ON JANUARY 23, 2000 THAT WE HAD OUR ENTRANCE CEREMONY AT OUR CURRENT LOCATION. THAT SERVICE WAS ATTENDED BY PASTOR R. G. SIMMONS WHO BROUGHT THE MESSAGE, PASTOR LELIOUS JOHNSON OF THE ST. PAUL CHURCH, REV. BOOKER T. WATSON, OF THE COLLEGE PARK CHURCH, REV. LARRY JOHNSON OF THE GOOD HOPE CHURCH, AND REV. TERENCE JOHNSON OF THE GREATER SUNRISE CHURCH. IT WAS AN EXCITING AND SPIRIT FILLED SERVICE.

SINCE THAT SERVICE, OUR CHURCH HAS GROWN SLOWLY BUT CONSISTENTLY, WE HAVE HAD ADDITIONS AS WELL AS SUBTRACTIONS. THE LORD HAS MULTIPLIED AND DIVIDED AND YET WE HAVE BEEN SUSTAINED.

OUR FIRST SON IN THE MINISTRY WAS ARTHUR SNEED SR., OUR FIRST DEACON WAS CARSON PATTERSON WHO BEGAN AT THE BEGINNING OUR FIRST ORDAINED DEACON WAS CURTIS LEARY. WE HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF ASSOCIATE MINISTERS AND OUTSTANDING FAITHFUL LEADERS THROUGHOUT THE PAST EIGHT YEARS.

WITH STEADFASTNESS WE HAVE CONTINUED IN THIS WORK GIVING ALL PRAISES TO THE LORD FOR THE "VISION" BEING ALIVE AND THE "HARVEST" THAT IS TO COME. WE THANK GOD FOR THE ADDITION OF NEW MEMBERS TO OUR FAMILY. WE REJOICED WHEN OUR PASTOR WAS SELECTED TO PREACH AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN INDIANA IN 2004. SUCH A PRESTIGIOUS HONOR SOME MINISTERS YOUNG OR OLD MAY NEVER EXPERIENCE.

PRAYER IS THE MAIN THING AND WE ENDED THE YEAR OF 2004 WITH MUCH PRAYER AND FERVOR. WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE LEADERSHIP AND VISION OF OUR PASTOR TO HAVE SUCH A MAN AS MINISTER RICK JORDAN OF CONCORD MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, MINISTER OF PRAYER, SHARE WITH US "THE HOUR THAT CHANGED THE WORLD."

IN 2005, WE HELD OUR FIRST FALL REVIVAL WITH PASTOR LELIOUS JOHNSON OF THE ST. PAUL CHURCH AS OUR GUEST EVANGELIST. OUR JERICO ROAD NEEDS MINISTRY HAD A VERY SUCCESSFUL BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVE AWAY. AND ONCE AGAIN WE ENDED THE YEAR IN A POSTURE OF PRAYER.

THE HIGHLIGHT FOR 2006 WAS A FEATURE ARTICLE IN THE ELITE NEWS ON OUR CHURCH WITH A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF OUR PASTOR AND FIRST LADY ON THE COVER IN THE DECEMBER 22, 2006 EDITION.

ALTHOUGH 2007 SAW OUR FINANCES VACILLATE, A PLAN WAS IMPLEMENTED TO BRING FINANCIAL STABILITY. IT INCLUDED OFFERING COMMITMENTS AND A MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION PROGRAM CALLED THE DIVINE CLUSTERS.

IN THE PAST SIX YEARS GOD HAS BLESSED US THROUGH NEW MEMBERS WILLING TO WORK IN HIS MINISTRY HERE AT THE DYNAMIC DIVINE INSPIRATION CHURCH. THESE BLESSINGS ALSO INCLUDED A NEWLY ORDAINED DEACON.

THE BEGINNING OF 2014 DIVINE MOURNED THE LOSS OF DEACON CURTIS LEARY, A GREAT AND GIVING MEMBER WHO WAS PRESIDENT OF THE USHER BOARD AND CHAIR OF OUR FINANCE COMMITTEE. DEACON LEARY HAS BEEN TRULY MISSED BY ALL OF US. BUT MANY BLESSINGS FLOWED IN FOR DIVINE IN 2014. SEVERAL SOULS HAVE BECOME MEMBERS OF OUR FAMILY AND A NEW DEACON WAS ORDAINED. WE ADDED A NEW PODIUM IN THE PULPIT AND RECEIVED A AC UNIT. OUR MOTHER OF THE CHURCH, SISTER WAFFUS SIMMONS DONATED A BEAUTIFUL CABINET FOR OUR COMMUNION.

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OUR SHINING STAR AMONG OUR MINISTRIES IS OUR FOOD PANTRY THAT HAS PARTNERED WITH THE NORTH TEXAS FOOD BANK SINCE MAY 2007. WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT FINANCIALLY CHALLENGED FAMILIES WITH THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON. THIS YEAR MARKED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF FAMILIES WE HAVE EVER SERVED TOTALING 1,815 INDIVIDUALS.

IN THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS, WE'VE BOUGHT LAND AND SOLD LAND. WE HAVE HAD OUR STRUGGLES. YET, THROUGH IT ALL, GOD HAS SEEN US THROUGH. IT IS OUR CONSTANT HOPE JUST TO BUILD THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND LIVE BY OUR CHURCH MOTTO, "A CHURCH OF LIVING FAITH, ON ONE ACCORD, DOING THINGS GOD'S WAY."

THE MAIN THING IS PRAYER AND WITH THE DETERMINATION TO JOURNEY THE WAY THE LORD HAS GIVEN, WE MUST CONSTANTLY REMAIN IN PRAYER CONTINUALLY.

YES! THE HARVEST IS COMING. THE VISION IS STILL ALIVE!

OUR MOTTO:

“A church of living faith, on one accord, doing things God’s way.”

CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Divine Inspiration Missionary Baptist Church is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, evangelize and convert the lost, be a living example of love toward the membership and the world, educate and disciple those that are saved with a commitment to live for the Lord.

The Significance of Our Church Colors

Purple and Gold represented the presence of the Word of God in the midst of the children of Israel. Therefore, these colors were chosen to be symbolic that the presence of God dwells within us here at Divine Inspiration Missionary Baptist Church.

Purple:

Early history reveals that fine linens and ram skins were dyed in colors of purple and brought as offerings. To be dressed in purple meant to be a “king” or one of wealth.

Gold:

This is the first metal mentioned in the Bible in Genesis. (Genesis 2:11)

The precious metal was used for important furnishings in the tabernacle and temple. Gold was also brought as offerings unto God.

The Ark described to Moses by God was a vessel built according to sacred specifications. The staves in the ark were built of shittim wood and overlaid with “gold.”