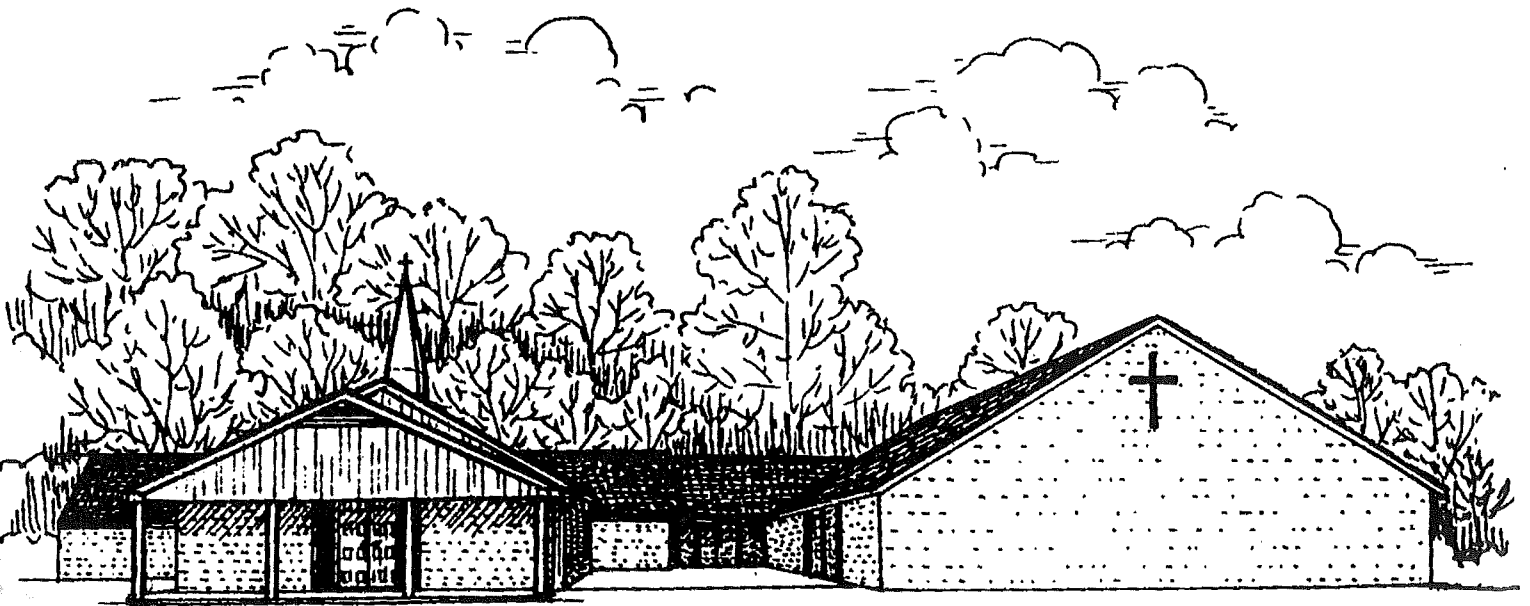


*Celebrating 150 Years*

June 9, 2013



**Promise Land Missionary Baptist Church**

*Established 1863*

**Pastor: Bro. Michael Reese**

*We are excited to share this special book of history and memories of Promise Land Missionary Baptist Church in Hamburg, Arkansas. On behalf of Bro. Trey Emory, myself, and our families, we thank you for joining us for this occasion and celebration of 150 years of service and ministry.*

*Promise Land Missionary Baptist Church has grown throughout the years both spiritually and physically. From a small church building to the facilities that we now enjoy today, from a handful of families to families touched all over Arkansas, the vision of the church has held true and firm.*

*Down through the years, the church has endured various burdens and enjoyed a magnitude of blessings. It is with great wonder and amazement to reflect on what God has done through willing and faithful servants. We should not be surprised to see what He has done through His people that have humbled themselves, prayed, and continue to seek His face.*

*Just glancing through the list of previous pastors, our church has been led by men seeking the leadership of God. These outstanding men of God have helped lay a foundation upon which we can continue to build. Many congregations that have met throughout the years at Promise Land have been spiritually taught and led; hence, our congregation continues to draw strength from Godly leadership.*

*My prayer is that God continues to bless Promise Land Missionary Baptist Church.*

*Dr. Michael Reese*

*Dr. Michael W. Reese*

## PROMISE LAND PASTORS

Hogan Allen	August 1863	--	January 1971
Jackson Van Buren Waldrop	February 1871	--	June 1877
Hogan Allen	September 1877	--	(No Minutes)
J. S. Wood	April 1878	--	May 1878
Hogan Allen	October 1878	--	September 1879
W. L Kimbro	November 1879	--	December 18
A. J. Fawsett	January 1880	--	November 1880
Hogan Allen	February 1881	--	November 1883
J. S. Wood	December 1883	--	July 1887
George D. Moore	August 1887	--	December 1889
Hogan Allen	December 1889	--	March 1893
George D. Moore	April 1893	--	October 1894
J. W. Sims	November 1894	--	October 1897
Hogan Allen	November 1897	--	November 1898
George D. Moore	January 1899	--	December 1899
A. F. Willis	February 1900	--	April 1903
J. C. Stell	May 1903	--	December 1903
T. G. Morgan	January 1904	--	February 1912
L. E. Holt	February 1912	--	September 1913
T. G. Morgan	October 1913	--	October 1915
S. M. Webb	October 1915	--	December 1917
T. G. Morgan	January 1918	--	December 1920
S.W. Moore	January 1921	--	October 1923
Martin Tomlin	August 1923	--	May 1925
A. T. Powers	September 1925	--	November 1936
J. E. Hollingsworth	December 1937	--	October 1941
Harris Crittenden	December 1941	--	December 1944
Ernest Payne	April 1945	--	July 1945
F. E. James	August 1945	--	October 1948
C. W. Pierce	January 1949	--	January 1950
Carl McDaniel	January 1950	--	October 1951
Edgar Wilkerson	January 1952	--	March 1954
Homer Williams	June 1954	--	August 1956
G. S. Crane	October 1956	--	July 1959
Henry Morris	January 1960	--	September 1962
Eugene Spurlin	October 1962	--	October 1966
Ray Jones	December 1966	--	September 1968
Eugene Spurlin	September 1968	--	April 1976
Curtis Brown	June 1976	--	May 1984
Bill Woodall	November 1984	--	September 1992
John Mooney	November 1992	--	December 1996
Jeff Alderman	May 1997	--	May 2000
Kenny Williams	July 2000	--	December 2004
Michael Reese	March 2005	--	(Present)

## Promise Land Deacons

William Bell	Searcy Thomas
J. A. Haley	John William Kilcrease
John Carpenter	A. C. Kilcrease
J. W. Smith	Glynn "Poe" Carpenter
A. D. Cone	Charles Pullin
R. M Kelley	Guy Humphries
S. R. Smith	Don Kelley
A. F. Roberts	Louis Jacks
George D. Johnson	Norval Lee Cecil
C. B. Kelley	Norman Higginbotham
D. E. Stell	Bobby Gene Jones
D. S. Madden	Herbert Wallace
Jesse Collins	Billy Don Cecil
Frank Summers	Jeff Foster
Guy Wallace	Ronny Coulter
Curtis Huffman	Rodney Chapman
A. A. Bates	Danny Kirkland

1863

Promise Land Missionary Baptist Church was organized August 23, 1863, with eleven charter members. They were William Bell, Robert Stell, Robert Kelley, J. L. Pledger, Henry Bell, Martha Kelley, Martha Stell, Margaret Stell, Clara G. Haley, Nancy C. Taylor, and Amanda Waldrop. Elder Hogan Allen was the first pastor. Some descendants of the original eleven members are active in the Lord's service at Promise Land Baptist Church today.

The first meeting place for the church was the log school house. Tradition tells us that so many people came to the organization service that the school house wouldn't hold them. They moved to a cotton gin shed that belonged to Robert J. Stell, one-half mile north of the church site, for the organization.

At first, the church met once a month, later they met twice a month, or quarterly. The church continued to meet in the school house until a boxed building was erected at the present location.

Promise Land Church was named for the community. We are told that the Promise Land community was named by T. J. Wells who came here from Madison County, Mississippi. After he had lived here, it is said he wrote back to his family and friends that he had "found the land of promise." From this, the community located five miles northeast of Hamburg, came to be known as the Promise Land community. The church was named for the community.

1866

Berry Lake was mentioned for the first time as a place to meet at the water to attend the ordinance of baptism.

1869

Church conference was very important. Members were called to give an account of themselves if they were absent from conference twice in succession. This was repealed in January 1879 and changed to 3 meetings.

1870—1871

T. J. Wells donated the first acre of land for the Promise Land cemetery. His wife, Mary F. Wells, died in 1871 and was the first person buried in the cemetery.

A committee was appointed in August 1870 to negotiate and purchase the land the church now stands on from Elder J. L. Pledger. "Got a title to land" was given in report in January 1871.

Elder Hogan Allen resigned as pastor in January 1871

Elder Jackson Van Buren Waldrop was called as pastor in February 1871.

1872

In September the church agreed to pay Elder Waldrop \$60 for his past year's service.

Night services were referred to as "met by candlelight." Oil lamps were purchased in November 1872.

The first treasurer was mentioned in December 1872 and was not referred to as treasurer. Bro. Tilman Kelley was the first person elected to take subscriptions.

1876—1877

Voted in September to pay pastor \$100 a year. Elder Jackson Van Buren Waldrop resigned June 30, 1877.

Elder Hogan Allen was called the second time as pastor in September 1877.

There were no minutes recorded from October 1877—March 1878. Bad weather often would cancel church services.

1878-1880

Elder J. S. Wood was called as pastor in April 1878 and was there two months, April & May.

Elder Hogan Allen was back for the third time as pastor and served October 1878 until September 1879.

Elder W. L. Kimbro was called as pastor in November 1879 and served November and December.

Elder A. J. Fawsett was called in January 1880 and resigned November 1880.

\*\*Did not have services in December & January due to bad weather \*\*

1881—1903

Elder Hogan Allen was called as pastor for his fourth time. He served as pastor from February 1881 until November 1883.

Elder J. S. Wood was called as pastor in December 1883 and served until July 1887.

Elder George D. Moore was called as pastor in August 1887 and served until December 1889.

\*\*Moore did not remain pastor due to church owing him \$78.65 and did not return until he was paid in full. \*\*

Elder Hogan Allen was called as pastor the fifth time and served December 1889 until March 1893.

Elder George D. Moore served as pastor April 1893 until October 1894.

Thirty three members were added to the church the week of the revival in August 1894.

Elder J. W. Sims was pastor November 1894, until October 1897.

Elder Hogan Allen was back for the sixth time serving as pastor November 1897 until November 1898.

Elder A. F. Willis was pastor February 1900 until April 1903.

In September 1902 a protracted meeting (revival) was held. There were 62 additions: 46 by baptism, 8 by letter, and 8 by restoration. A person was restored when they made apologies to the church for misconduct, apology accepted and the person was back in full fellowship with the church.

Elder J. C. Stell served as pastor May 1903 until December 2 1903.

#### 1904—1913

Before 1904 the church met the first Saturday and Sunday in the month. The conference was held on Saturday, often extending into Sunday.

The church called the roll and read the Church Covenant yearly. In October 1904 there were 273 members on roll: 126 males and 147 sisters (females).

In August 1904 the protracted meeting was held with 56 additions: 42 by baptism, 1 by letter and 13 by restoration.

Elder T. G. Morgan was pastor January 1904 until February 1912.

In March 1907 the Ladies Auxiliary was organized, meeting the second and fourth Sunday at 3:00 p.m.

Elder Morgan resigned as pastor in February 1912.

Elder L. E. Holt was called as pastor in February 1912 and remained as pastor until September 1913.

The church began meeting on Wednesday nights in January 1913 for prayer meeting.

The fourth Sunday night in April 1913 the Baptist Young People's Union was organized.

Bro. T. G. Morgan was elected pastor in October 1913 and served until October 1915.

#### 1915—1920

Bro. S. M. Webb was called as pastor in October 1915 and served until December 1917.

In May 1916 the church purchased the first organ.

In November 1916 the church bought land joining the church property, making a five acre square.

Bro. T. G. Morgan was called once again as pastor in January 1918 and served until December 1920.

1921

The minutes read, "On Saturday before the fourth Sunday in August the regular Missionary Baptist Church of Christ at Promise Land came together in conference."

Bro. S. W. Moore was elected pastor in September.

Committee was appointed to draft a resolution of respect and honor of their deceased sister Minnie Catherine Fudge Stell Black who passed away in 1921. We found in the minutes a few resolutions honoring deceased church members. Committees were appointed to write the memorials with instructions that after they were written they were to be added to the minutes. It was usually a couple or three months before resolution was presented to church.

October offering was sent to orphanage in Texarkana.

Mr. & Mrs. Madison Kelley were hired as janitors for the year and would be paid \$25.

On the third Sunday in December, the Promise Land School Board requested the use of the church house to finish their term of literary school. Request was granted.

A note for \$72.00 had been on books for several months and due to small attendance, lack of funds, and bad weather the note was still unpaid. The third Sunday in December, in conference, there was a proposition made to donate one day's work with wagon and team, sum to be applied on the note, also a proposition to substitute a cash donation of \$2.50 in place of a day's work. Work would be done during the holidays. Motion made and proposition carried.

1922

Committee was empowered the first Sunday in January to go to the bank and pay off the note that the church owed and report back to the church if there were sufficient funds.

Sister Minnie Catherine Fudge Stell Black's memorial was read by Sister Helen Griswold, motion and second to accept it as read. They were instructed to place a copy of memorial in minutes and furnish a copy to be printed in the county paper.

Irene High Riley is a current member of Promise Land Church and Minnie Catherine Fudge Stell Black was her great-grandmother.

\*\*A copy of the memorial for Sister Minnie Catherine Fudge Stell Black is on the next page.\*\*

The last of February the clerk informed the church they were behind on Bro. Moore's salary for the previous year and that \$50 in cash would settle with him. They accepted the proposition and the service was paid in cash making in account \$271 paid the pastor for 1921. Motion was made to pay Bro. Moore \$250 in 1923.

During the April business meeting the clerk was given additional time to send delinquent church members letters. Letters were sent and the clerk reported not receiving replies from any of them. Church voted to prefer charges against them for contempt toward the church. A motion and second to withdraw fellowship from them was approved and the clerk called 10 names of persons receiving the letters.

July 6<sup>th</sup> was set as a work day to clean the grave yard (cemetery).

## In Remembrance of

Sister Minnie Fudge Black was born in Ashley County, Arkansas November, 6th, 1861. Died August, 21st, 1921 being 59 years, 6 months, 15 days old. Buried at Promise Land, Eld. S. W. Moore conducting the funeral services.

The youngest of five children was left fatherless at six months. Two brothers, Eugene & David Fudge; two sisters Mesdames Jennie Gibbs and Dora Kelley all of whom are now passed to the Great Beyond excepting Mrs Dora Kelley.

Sister Minnie Fudge married R. J. Still Jr. in December 1875. Three children were born to this union; one only survives, Mrs. Hattie Collier.

Bro. Still died in 1884. His widow married W. L. Black during the following year.

Seven children were born to them, five of whom survive. Howard, Surtman, Farmer Black, and Mrs. Genia Locke all of Boydel, Ark, also Mrs. Mattie Lee Boone of Shreveport La.

Bro. Black died November 1910.

Twice left an orphan, twice a widow, often following her own flesh and blood to the dark and silent tomb, her unswerving faith in God and love for her Saviour was ever a source of comfort to and halo of glory about her.

Giving her heart to God, her life and service under the preaching of Elder J. V. B. Waldrop in August 1875, was received into the fellowship of Promise Land Baptist Church.



living from then until her death of the sweetest leaders and brightest lights in that community.

A wife and mother tender and true, a kind sympathetic friend, a wonderful inspiration to her pastor and church.

In the words of inspired Paul she could truthfully say, "I have fought the fight; I have kept the faith."

As viewed by mere mortals life was ~~was~~ not always good to her, but God's love and her devotion to His service is beyond human understanding, an everlasting altar of sweet incense to His Holy Name; or had we all words at our command with which to say all the good, pure, noble, uplifting things true of Sister <sup>Black</sup> they would seem far too few.

Oh! how sorely do we feel our loss! Let us resolve this New Year to follow her example that His love may be verified His name adored above every name.

Such, we are sure, are the things she should wish most for us to do.

S. P. Smith  
J. G. Carpenter  
Helen L. Griswold

Committee.

## 1923

The business meetings continued to meet on Saturdays and many times extended into Sunday. There was always a mission offering taken and money received for the Orphans Home in Texarkana.

On Saturday before the first Lord's Day in April 1923 the Regular Missionary Baptist Church of Christ at Promise Land met in Conference. After preaching by the pastor, Bro. Moore, a motion and second carried to appoint someone to buy lights for the church. Sisters Ella Mae Wallace, Willie and Addie Kelley were appointed.

Church discipline was discussed again in July with various members being guilty of dancing, drinking, foul language, unchristian conduct, and offending the church by their actions. Motion was made and seconded to withdraw fellowship from the guilty parties. Clerk would notify guilty parties of the charges.

Bro. Martin Tomlin was called as pastor in August 1923 and church voted to pay him \$350 for the next pastoral year. In October 1923, Bro. S.W. Moore made a statement concerning his pastoral work, saying as the church had made a call and the pastor was ready, he felt it was time to resign. The church accepted his resignation and commended him as a faithful pastor.

Bro. Tomlin then answered the call of the church accepting the church urging the membership to show more appreciation to the pastor by attending church more regularly, thus exercising their privilege and duty.

Bro. Tomlin read the articles of agreement as adopted by the Landmark Bartholomew Association. With motion and second, the church adopted them.

## 1925

Church voted to start meeting on the second and fourth Sunday afternoons for Sunday School and singing.

Bought a new organ for the church from a company in Little Rock paying \$50 for organ. Arrangements were made later to borrow \$30 from the bank to finish paying for the organ but instead records later show the money was borrowed from John R. Wallace.

Mrs. Willie Kelley bought the old church organ and paid for it by working as janitor for the church.

Bro. Martin Tomlin resigned as pastor in May 1925.

John R. Wallace had not been repaid the money borrowed to buy the organ. Sister Agnes Etheridge and Sister Jaynie Burgess were appointed to solicit and collect money to pay this debt.

Bro. A. T. Powers was evangelist for revival in August.

Bro. A. T. Powers was called as pastor for Promise Land in September 1925.

## 1926

Three men and their families were having problems and it was brought before the church. The church worked with them for months and in March 1926 charges were preferred against them. The clerk notified them of the church's action and demanded they be present at the next regular conference meeting in April. At the April conference, the families forgave one another, made their apology to the

church, and gave one another a hand shake as a token of good will. Prayer and thanks to God was given for true Christian action. The church withdrew the charges against the families and they were restored to fellowship.

Bro. Ben M. Bogard was evangelist for revival in September 1926.

In November 1926, a committee was appointed to investigate and decide if the church could build a pastor's home on the property owned by the church. Bro. J. G. Carpenter, R. L. Griswold, R. P. Wallace, S. R. Burgess, and Alex McDonald were appointed. At the December conference the church decided they could not build the pastor's home at this time.

A balance of \$50 was due on the pastor's salary. Bro. Powers offered to cancel the balance and set the church even. A motion and second carried to reject the pastor's generous offer and the balance was raised and settlement was paid in full.

#### 1927

Bro. Bogard preached a two week revival. Bro. Powers preached the first day because Bro. Bogard failed to get in until Tuesday because he could not make train connections. Eighteen joined for baptism, two by letter and two by restoration during the revival.

Motion was made to discontinue Saturday business meetings, motion failed, after serious consideration the majority voted in favor of continuing the Saturday meetings.

#### 1928

Had revival with pastor, Bro. A. T. Powers, preaching and they stated in the minutes that his sermons were good and forcefully delivered.

In September the deacons and pastor met. After much prayer and planning a resolution was passed to ask the church to plan and start building a pastor's home immediately. R. P. Wallace was chosen to present resolution to the church.

At the August business meeting the pastor's home was discussed and a committee started investigating the advisability of building. In September decision was made to build. The building committee was empowered to use the best of their judgments in having the timber on the church property used, either to saw it or sell and buy. Started building pastor's home in December.

#### 1929

March minutes stated motion was made and seconded for the building committee to be empowered to borrow enough money from the bank to cover the balance needed on the pastor's home. In May, the committee reported they had borrowed \$22.11.

In September a motion carried for the deacons to send letters to members of the church not helping support the church and request their help.

Mission money collected in September and October: Orphans Home \$3.88; Foreign missions \$32; State Missions \$4.73. Money also sent to Orphans Home.

1930

January reports stated that Bro. J. G. Carpenter and D. E. Stell be appointed as a committee to notify people interested in the grave yard (cemetery) of the work that needed to be done and ask for their help.

One day was set every year for a cemetery working, usually on a Saturday. Men and women gathered with hoes, rakes, and shovels. Families cleaned their own plots and then helped clean others. The graves were decorated with shells, marbles, toys, stones, pretty broken glass pieces, etc. Many graves were outlined with brown glass snuff bottles. All that had to be removed, graves cleaned, and grave decorations returned.

Church purchased wire for the cemetery and Thanksgiving was set as a day to build a new fence. Old wire would be used to fence in a garden plot for pastor.

Bro. R. W. Glover was evangelist for revival.

At the October business meeting a motion prevailed that a list be made of members of Promise Land they had not heard from recently. The church was not satisfied with their neglect and they would be brought before the church for questioning.

Homecoming was the third Sunday in October. Part of the roll was called, pastor Bro. A. T. Powers preached. Potluck lunch was served on tables under the shade trees. After lunch the organization letter and names of the charter members of the church were read. Several talks were made. The calling of the roll was finished. Elder T. G. Morgan preached.

In September, the roll call list was investigated, still interested in individuals not faithful to their church.

1931

Motion was made and seconded to call a pastor for an indefinite time. Motion passed. Bro. A. T. Powers was called in September 1925 and continued to be called and remained as pastor until 1936.

First Sunday in January, received a collection of \$1.30 for the Baptist College at Sheridan.

1932

Received collection to pay balance on the pastor's smoke house. (House where he smoked his meat).

Finance committee was appointed to purchase a new piano. Balance due on piano was settled in June and committee discharged.

Our records state that members have been excluded for contempt, dancing, drunkenness, heresy, not skipping the Sabbath, selling intoxicating drink, adultery, non-attendance, refusing to obey scriptural commands for settling personal differences, fiddling at dances, covenant breakers, and publicly insulting the pastor.

The people were notified and if they did not make apologies to the church they were excluded. Numerous apologies were given and persons forgiven.

Bro. A. T. Powers resigned as pastor in September 1932. Church unanimously rejected it.

1933

In March voted to dispense with the conference meetings on Saturday and have conference on Sunday.

Bro. Powers offered his resignation as pastor again in August 1933. Motion prevailed to accept his resignation to take effect October 1<sup>st</sup>. Third Sunday in September Elder A. T. Powers was unanimously elected pastor for the ensuing year.

1934

Committee was appointed to investigate the origin of the article appearing in the Ashley County Leader in regards to Promise Land Church needing a pastor.

Fixing and carrying for the lamps was an object of concern throughout the years. Voted to pay A. C. Kilcrease \$2.50 for taking care of the lights during revival meetings. The evangelist, C. A. Gilbert, was paid \$53.30.

1935

Built sleeping porch on parsonage in March.

In May voted to pay pastor \$250 next year and more if they could afford it.

Started calling church roll and continued until it was completed. The deacons and clerk were appointed as a committee to investigate why church members were absent from business meetings.

1936

Road in front of church was straightened.

Church conference was held on Saturday nights.

Bro. A. T. Powers resigned as pastor in November.

1937

The Promise Land Auxiliary was organized in June 1937.

Promise Land Girls Auxiliary was organized in September.

Bro. J. E. Hollingsworth was called as pastor in December 1937, and asked the church to pay him in a new way. He requested free will offerings, meaning his income would be whatever was placed in the offering plates on Sunday morning. Bro. Hollingsworth was a student at the Missionary Baptist Seminary in Little Rock Monday through Friday until he graduated but would be in Promise Land on weekends.

Voted to change Sunday school literature and start using lessons published by Bro. Ben M. Bogard.

Started having three services every week, two on Sunday and one on Wednesday night.

Week of Bible School in January with Dr. Ben M. Bogard & Bro. John L. Causey.

A. C. Kilcrease elected janitor and was to be paid \$ .50 a week.

Second hand pump bought for parsonage for \$12.50 and Hogan Etheridge put it down for \$5. In August, the pump was sold and a well dug.

Revival held with Bro. John L. Causey evangelist. There were twenty four saved, two restored to membership, and one coming by statement.

Voted to finance a car for Bro. Hollingsworth.

1939

Changed conference to Sunday morning and in November decided to have conference quarterly. Committee appointed to check on lighting system for church.

1940

Several church members had not been living as they should. They made apologies to the church for dancing, drinking, and unchristian conduct. Bro. Hollingsworth, during conference in October called for the peace and fellowship of the church asking any member who felt they had violated or broken church rules in any way to ask the church for forgiveness. The majority of the members did come forward rededicating their lives to the Lord and to the church asking forgiveness.

1941

Bought new lamp supplies for church.

Bro. Hollingsworth resigned in October.

Bro. Harris Crittenden was called as pastor to Promise Land in December.

1942

Bro. Crittenden, his mother, brother and two sisters moved in parsonage in January.

First reference of church building insurance.

1943

Church insurance was due so Donald and Thomas Collins donated \$1 each, R. Z Stell added \$5 with B. R. Smith putting in \$10 and the \$17 insurance bill was paid.

1944

Received \$15 collection for Bro. A. T. Powers to be used on his radio program and his first service was to be dedicated to Promise Land Church.

Voted to try a bus route for the church for a month. A box was provided for money for this fund and the church would pay the difference. Later voted to continue to run the bus two Sundays each month.

J. W. Payte taught a two weeks singing school.

Had a Thanksgiving service and invited Bro. Hollingsworth, Powers, and Ben Bogard as guest.

Bro. Crittenden resigned in December.

1945

Ernest Payne called as pastor but explained he could not move on the field. He was Pastor April through July.

Bro. F. E. James was called as pastor in August 1945.

Jessie & Alfred Gulledge gave money for a new roof for the church as a memorial for their son James Alfred Gulledge, a U. S. Marine, killed in action on Okinawa, April 22, 1945.

1946

Voted to not use Sunday school material selected by the International Sunday School Committee, but continue to use material written by our own writers.

Would continue pastor's salary by free will offerings.

1947

After approval by church, started raising money for butane gas installation in church and purchase of new fans. Butane was installed in November but not in Sunday school rooms. Motion made to sell old heaters.

Jesse Collins, Frank Summers, and Guy Wallace were ordained as deacons, September 12, 1947. Bro. Bogard would preach ordination service. These deacons were ordained and then asked to serve on a committee to visit parties that are walking disorderly and report back to church in two weeks.

Agreed at business meeting that all church business must be discussed at regular business meetings and if there is ever an exception the church must be notified one week before it is to be presented to the church.

Young Married Couples Class organized with Jesse Collins as teacher, assistant Charles Burgess.

In December, put pastor on salary.

1948

Discussed building additional needed Sunday school rooms. Morgan Kelley and deacons were to work on this.

Bro. F. E. James resigned in October.

1949

Bro. C. W. Pierce was elected Promise Land pastor in January.

Electric pump put at parsonage.

Build a fence around church to keep hogs from sleeping under it.

Mr. Guy Wallace worked with helpers to add new cabinets, screens, and other needs at the parsonage. The men also fenced in a garden area.

Promise Land continued sponsoring radio broadcast at \$10 a month.

Bro. C. W. Pierce resigned.

1950—1951

Bro. Carl McDaniel was elected pastor in January 1950 and resigned in October 1951.

1952

Bro. Edgar Wilkerson became pastor of Promise Land Church January 1952.

1953

Had a two week singing school in June.

Sent money to help complete home being built at Texarkana Baptist Orphanage.

Voted to build a new building with auditorium being 35 x 56 feet with a 36 x 56 building tied on to form a tee and build it with tile blocks. Voted to cut and sell timber on church property and use this money on new building.

1954

John William Kilcrease was ordained as a Promise Land deacon in February 1954.

Bro. Edgar Wilkerson turned in his resignation as pastor in March 1954.

Bro. Homer Williams was elected Promise Land pastor in June 1954.

Several Promise Land Church members left the church and later organized Harmony Church. The majority of them later returned to Promise Land.

Bro. Albert Garner was evangelist for our revival.

1955

Pastor put on salary of \$50 per week.

The old church building was torn down so some material could be used in the new one. We had services in the Promise Land Masonic Lodge Hall between the time the old building was torn down and the new one was completed.

The third Promise Land Church building was completed in 1956. It was a tile brick structure with an auditorium, 56 x 36 feet, an educational building 56 x 36 feet behind the auditorium consisting of seven Sunday school rooms and a pastor's study. The new church was dedicated the third Sunday in May 1956.

Bro. Homer Williams resigned as pastor in August 1956.

Bro. G. S. Crane was elected as pastor of Promise Land Church in October 1956.

1958

Glynn Carpenter and A. C. Kilcrease were ordained as deacons of Promise Land in January 1958.



Locks were put on the church for the very time due to a typewriter, piano bench and other items being stolen.

#### 1959

Promise Land sent \$10 every month to Bro. Roy Chapman, missionary to Pine Forest Church, to help with their mission. Bro. Crane was in revival and Bro. Chapman preached for us the third Sunday in February. The Chapman's house had recently burned, so the church gave him the morning offering which totaled \$58.00.

In April, Bro. Crane asked the church's permission to start preaching on the radio station in Crossett. Permission was granted.

Handicraft was approved to be used in Vacation Bible Schools in August 1959.

Ladies Auxiliary repapered and worked on parsonage.

Church voted to pay pastors \$65 weekly.

Bro. Crane gave his resignation in July 1959.

#### 1960

Bro. Henry Morris was called as pastor in January 1960.

Church voted to add two rest rooms to church.

Sunday school reports and records were recorded for first time.

Bro. Harris Crittenden, former pastor, preached revival in July.

First Sunday in September, pastor's salary was raised to \$75 weekly.

During cold months, sister churches without baptistry, including Promise land, would join together and go to South Crossett or Calvary Missionary Baptist Churches to baptize their candidates.

Ladies Auxiliary bought new ABA hymnals for church.

#### 1961

The Ladies Lois Circle was organized. The younger ladies will work with original Ladies Auxiliary.

Promise Land started helping Maplevale Church with their mission project at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Monroe, LA, where Elder Cloy Chapman was working on the field. Half of the mission money would be sent each month to this mission.

A motion was made and passed to go on a percentage basis of the church's income for missions. Voted to give 10%.

In August started taking an offering at night.

1962

Bro. Henry Morris was given permission to go to the Greenville Mission every other Sunday afternoon to preach.

Promise Land was blessed with so many young children that Sunday school classes were divided into age groups.

An electric pump was put down and we added two rest rooms, a vestibule and a nursery to the front of the church.

Bro. Morris resigned in September 1962.

Bro. Eugene Spurlin from Center Fork Baptist Church in Peary, AR, filled the pulpit the first Sunday in October and was called as pastor.

1963

Ladies Auxiliary paid \$150 for new pump for parsonage and had old one installed at church.

Permission was given for the Ladies Auxiliary and Lois Circle to join others in making plans for Promise Land's Centennial celebration. The date was set for August 4. Bro. A. T. Powers of Texarkana, former pastor at Promise Land, was chosen to preach the morning message. All former pastors were invited and each one given an opportunity to speak. There was singing in the afternoon and time given for a testimonial service. The celebration was a great success with 100 attending Sunday school and an estimate of 400 in worship service.

This Sunday also marked the beginning of Promise Land's revival service with Bro. J. B. Powers as evangelist.

1964

A baptistry was built. One of our members, Winnie Wallace, painted the baptistry scene. The scene is still in the baptistry today. Before this time, in summer months, Berry Lake and various church member's ponds, were used for baptizing and in winter months we would go to sister churches that had a baptistry.

Bro. Harris Crittenden, one of our former pastors, preached for us on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

In August, church voted to deed the land east of road belonging to the church to the Promise Land Cemetery.

Men's fellowship was organized and met the first Tuesday night of each month. Bro. Spurlin was the teacher.

1965

Voted to send 50% of mission offering monthly to Bro. Jerry Carter in Tallulah, LA.

Sold lots across the road from the church and applied the proceeds to the installation of a heating and cooling system in the entire building. Took special offering for this project and borrowed money with deacons signing the note.

Pastor's salary was raised to \$100 weekly with understanding it would go back to \$85 when Bro. Spurlin resigned.

Bro. & Mrs. J. R. Cecil united with Promise Land Church the fourth Sunday in March 1965. Bro. Cecil surrendered to preach in 1919 and was ordained in 1920 when he was 24 years old. Bro. & Mrs. Cecil moved a trailer by their son, Norval Lee Cecil and became a part of Promise Land Community and church. He filled the pulpit when needed and was always so willing to preach God's word. He represented our church at many ABA meetings, etc. Promise Land presented him two plaques for his dedication to the ministry. He was a great blessing to our church and community. Many of his personal books were donated to our library and are in a bookcase that Norval Lee built for them. Brother Cecil did not retire, poor health retired him. He died November 6, 1992, at the age of 97 and is buried in Promise Land Cemetery.

Bro. Morris Cloud was evangelist for revival in August with morning and evening services.

#### 1966

Morgan Kelley family presented a new pulpit to Promise Land Church in memory of Mr. Morgan in June.

Bro. Spurlin was honored by being chosen the 1966 Rural Pastor of the Year in Arkansas by the Progressive Farmer Magazine. The article stated that the congregation numbered a little over 300 and of that number more than 75 were added during his time at Promise Land. Bro. Spurlin was called as Promise Land's pastor twice. We now have his grandson, Bro. Trey Emory, as our Associate Pastor and Youth Director serving Promise Land.

**\*\*Bro. Eugene Spurlin's article on next page\*\***

Bro. Eugene Spurlin resigned in October 1966.

Bro. Ray Jones was elected pastor of Promise Land Church in December 1966.

#### 1967

Plans made and approved to build a new parsonage north of the church and to sell the old parsonage and land. Special building fund offerings started.

Donald Collins was appointed chairman of building committee for parsonage.

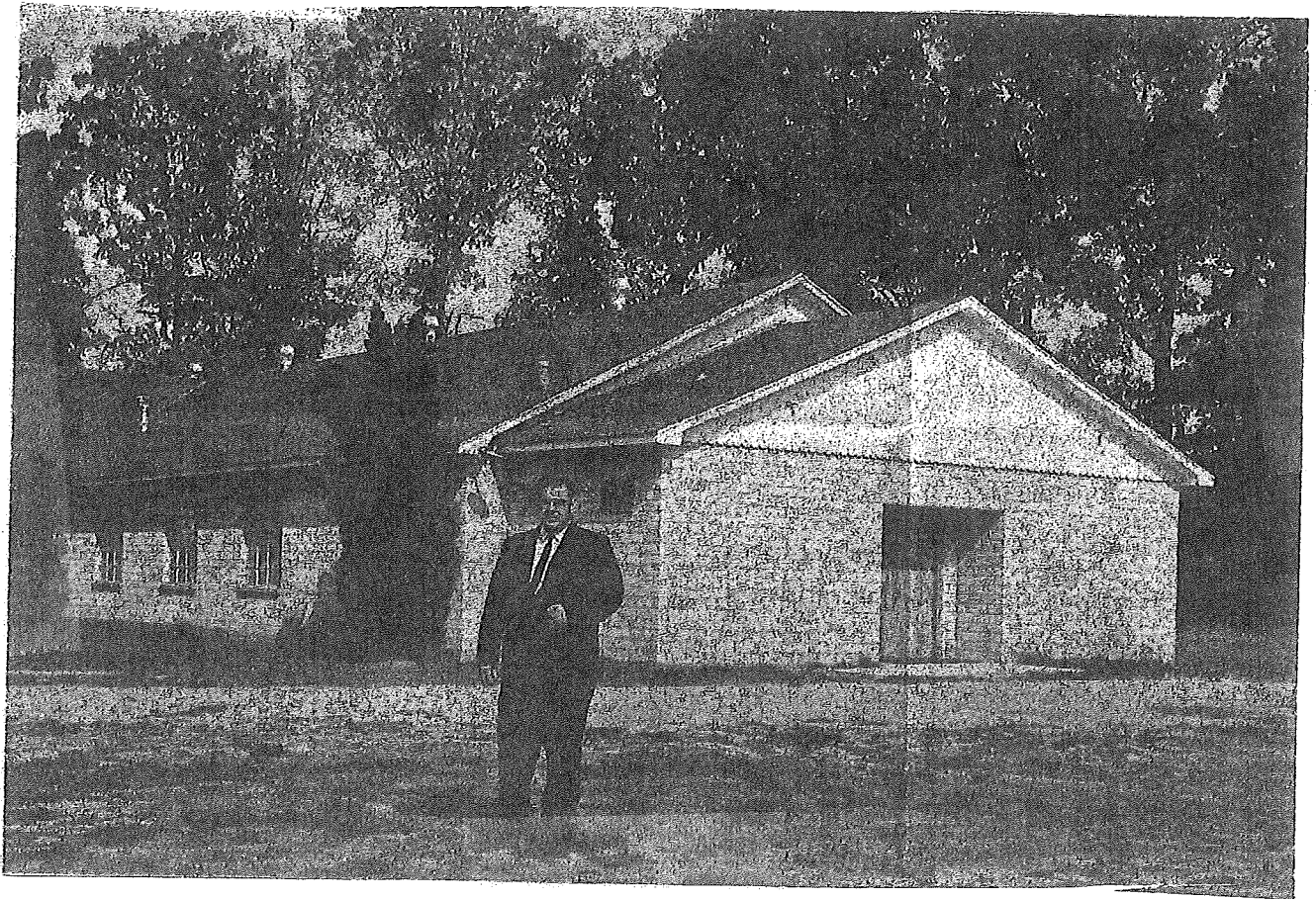
Bob Croswell was the contractor contacted to be in charge of building the parsonage.

The parsonage was built in 1967 when Bro. Ray Jones was pastor. The brick house was all electric, contained three bedrooms, living room, two baths, kitchen/dining room. The church is responsible for the upkeep of the house. The Lois Circle installed a dishwasher in 1973 and landscaped the grounds in 1969.

Motion made to let other churches of like faith uses our baptistry.

Adopted plans for an organized Missionary Baptist Youth Fellowship, April 1968, to meet 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday nights monthly. Agreed to have the fellowship and adopt the constitution.

Deacons brought in a new set of guidelines for pastors and the church, really feeling they have a fair workable condition for both the church and pastors. The church believes they give ample off days under normal conditions and believe that excess absences of our pastor and his leadership will be harmful to



### No. 1 Rural Minister

The Rev. Eugene Spurlin, photographed in front of the Promise Land Missionary Baptist Church won the designation of 1966 Rural Pastor of the Year in Arkansas by the Progressive Farmer Magazine. Along with the honor went a trip to Emory University at Atlanta for a two week workshop on rural religious problems. Promise Land Church members believe in the Bible as a guide for right living. But they put a good deal of stock, too, in the old adage that "the Lord helps those who help themselves".

A case in point is a new electric organ which graces the sanctuary at Promise Land Church. Bro. Spurlin appealed to his parishioners to start saving trading stamps to buy an organ for the church. He went to the chain grocery store that gave the trading stamps with each purchase and put up a box, with the manager's consent of course, for non-stamp collectors to deposit the trading stamps they didn't want, but which the church did. With members appealing to their friends and many shoppers dropping their stamps into the church box, it required only about a year to get the 285 books of stamps required for the electric organ.

Bro. Eugene Spurlin entered the Ministry at Promise Land 11 years ago. He drives as much as 40,000 miles a year ministering to the sick, visiting the well, and comforting the members grief-stricken by death or other misfortunes in their families. He is a member of the Promise Land Rural Community Improvement club (which won statewide RCI honors in 1965), the Hamburg P.T.A. and the Masonic Lodge.

(Article taken from Arkansas Democrat in 1966)

the church. The church realized a pastor's first consideration must be to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit and they fully agree with this. They recommended that in the event of excessive pastoral absences, the church ask the pastor, not the deacons, to fill the pulpit with someone of his choice with church's approval and at his own expense. Church adopted these rules.

Harmony Baptist Church disbanded and donated money to Promise Land Church. Church received the money and applied it to parsonage expense.

Bro. Fred Etheridge was evangelist for revival July 24-29.

1968

Bro. Jones resigned in August 1968.

Bro. Eugene Spurlin was called once again as Promise Land pastor. The Spurlins moved and he brought the morning message the second Sunday in September.

1969

Bro. Morris Cloud was the evangelist for revival.

Charles Pullin joined Promise Land Church in June and was recognized as a deacon. He had been ordained at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.

Bro. A. T. Powers was invited to preach the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in October celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> year in the ministry.

Bethal Missionary Baptist Church in Wilmar sent a request to Promise Land asking that Bro. Travis White be ordained into the ministry so they could call him as their pastor. Bro. Travis was ordained into the ministry at Promise land August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1969, with Bro. Ray Jones preaching the ordination sermon.

On the first Sunday in October, Bro. A. T. Powers was honored for his 50 years in the ministry by Promise Land. There was a luncheon in his honor. He was presented a plaque, and there was a reception at the parsonage for him. Bro. Powers preached, observing his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Pastor's salary was raised \$20 making it \$120 a week.

1970

Black-topped parking lot and added another drive in front of the church.

Ladies Auxiliary & Lois Circle purchased a new communion table for the church.

Church approved taking a building fund offering the last Sunday in every month and discontinued taking one weekly.

Bro. A. T. Powers was evangelist for revival.

Church sent funds to help with building of Baptist Book Store in Texarkana.

Paid off note to bank on parsonage.

1971

In 1971 we added six additional class rooms and remodeled the auditorium. This included new tile in the ceiling and paneling on the walls. Installed two night lights, one for church and one for parsonage.

Pastor's salary was raised to \$140 weekly.

Bro. Don McCormick was the evangelist for our revival.

Purchased new oak padded pews for church and many were purchased and given in memory of loved ones with plaque added to pew stating memorial. Total cost: \$4,039.77

In December, Don Kelley was recognized as one of our deacons. He had been ordained by Gardner Baptist Church.

1972

New pews were installed March 13, 1972.

New song books were purchased.

Bro. Don McCormick was evangelist for our revival.

A \$40 a month expense account was given Bro. Spurlin to be used any way he saw fit.

Sent a special offering for Christian education to the seminary in Little Rock in November.

1973

Young adult class purchased and presented to the church a loud speaker system in February.

Adopted a resolution that Promise Land Church is opposed to the sale of alcoholic beverages and drugs in Hamburg. Sent a copy of this resolution to officials and placed a copy in county paper.

Bro. J. C. James was the evangelist for our revival.

Bro. Spurlin requested a hospital insurance plan instead of a raise this year.

1974

Bro. James Staggs taught a two weeks singing school.

Brother Morris Cloud was the evangelist for our revival.

In 1974 church paid for a trip to the Holy Land for Bro. & Mrs. Eugene Spurlin.

First Sunday in May, voted to continue receiving a building fund offering, even though our note was paid off, money would be used for future building programs.

Bought Promise Land's first bus in July. Don Kelley was elected as driver and custodian of bus. Rules were made for bus use and approved by the church. Tucker oil volunteered to furnish the gas.

1975

Promise Land had their records from 1863 - 1900 microfilmed and stored in Arkansas Historical Society.

Bro. Munsey taught a singing school the second week in July.

A private telephone line was run to parsonage with church paying flat rate telephone bill.

The Promise Land Church and Cemetery were listed as beneficiaries in Mrs. Ella R. Finch's will. Jayne Burgess Cummings presented a letter stating that the nieces and nephews (Mrs. Finch had no children) requested an organ fund be started with the money the church received. The church approved the request, started an organ fund and appointed a committee to check into the purchase of an organ.

Bro. Harold Richardson was the evangelist for our revival in August.

Made the last payment on the church bus in September.

A new organ was purchased in September using Mrs. Finch's money, money from the sale of the old organ, and the remaining money coming from the church treasury.

Church added a steeple and a new porch out front.

1976

Brother Spurlin resigned April 17.

Youth led revival was April 15-17 with Bro. Glen Knight the evangelist.

Bro. Curtis Brown was elected in June as Promise Land's pastor.

Put new carpet in parsonage and tile in vestibule at church.

Bro. Don McComick was evangelist for revival.

1977

Pastor's salary was raised to \$225 and travel allowance \$200.

Sent money to Missionary Baptist Seminary in Little Rock to help with their new building project.

Sent money in May to missionary, Ricardo Roldan, in Peru to help buy property for a church.

Special offering was given to the local nursing home.

1978

Voted to increase mission fund offering by 10%, making it now 20% of our total offering. Fifty dollars was to be sent to Seminary in Little Rock.

Bought and installed new carpet in the auditorium, halls, and Sunday School rooms.

Bro. Buddy Lemons was evangelist for revival.

Concrete walk-ways were added to each side of building and to the back door.

Visiting ministers preaching in November were Bro. Harris Crittenden, Bro. Wille Thornhill, Bro. Eugene Spurlin.

1979

Paid for a trip to the Holy Land April 22-29 for Bro. And Mrs. Brown.

Bro. Rex Neman was the evangelist for our revival.

Mission money this month was sent to the MBSF in Monticello.

An Adult Bible Doctrine Class was organized with Bro. Brown as the teacher.

Van Pullin surrendered to the ministry.

Norval Lee Cecil, Norman Higginbotham, Bobby Jones, and Herbert Wallace were chosen as deacons for Promise Land Church in October. They were ordained in November.

1980

The Promise land deacons asked for prayerful consideration of the church to build a new auditorium with a seating capacity of 400. Their suggestion was for church members to pray about this for one month. The following month a motion carried to accept the recommendations of the deacons concerning building a new auditorium. The deacons were elected as the building committee.

Work started on the new auditorium in June. Some of the work was hired, but the majority was done by the men of the church with the women carrying lunch to them and doing some of the clean-up work.

The last week in July, every effort was made to get the framing and rafters up. This was finished on Saturday afternoon with a joyful sense of accomplishment being evidenced by the ones who worked so hard. One problem, the rafters weren't braced too well!! Late Sunday afternoon a cloud appeared, then a strong wind, and the rafters hit the ground. The Rural Electric boys were soon there with poles and the rafters were replaced braced.

This was a disappointment, but a blessing. More help arrived, the men worked together and by the next Saturday night all of it was back up again and people were more determined than ever to complete the building as soon as possible.

With the Lord's blessing, the building project was completed in one year. The first service in the new sanctuary was December 21, 1980. It was an all electric, brick veneer building with central heat and cooling, in-direct lighting, carpet, sound system, our first choir loft and two choir rooms. The builders left cypress on the back so it could be easily removed for expansion when needed. The new construction joins the old building with a 16 x 33 foot vestibule with two rest room facilities.

The old auditorium was converted into class rooms, storage space, and Promise Land's first Fellowship Hall with a kitchen.

1981

Sandra Gwin helped organized a Girl's Auxiliary.

The dedication of the new auditorium was on Mach 8, 1981. There was regular morning services, followed by potluck lunch. The special dedication service started at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. Louis Jacks



giving the welcome. John William Kilcrease gave the history of the church, Barbara Emory sang "Holy Spirit, Thou Art Welcome". Bro. Brown recognized the Building Committee and expressed his appreciation for everyone's cooperation. Bro. Brown preached the sermon of dedication.

Ladies Auxiliary purchased a new desk and chair for pastor's study.

Bro. J. B. Powers was the evangelist for our revival.

Larry Etheridge had been called into the ministry and Promise Land granted him a license.

Voted to give Bro. Larry Etheridge, a student of the Missionary Baptist Seminary in Little Rock, financial support.

Voted to give pastor two weeks' vacation, this including one Sunday and two Wednesday nights.

Fidelity Sunday School Class purchased four tables for fellowship hall.

#### 1982

Bro. Morris D. Cammack presented a copy of his book, "A Heritage", to the church to be placed in church library. Bro. Cammack's grandparents were once members of Promise Land Church and he expressed his gratitude for the influence of Promise Land Church.

H. D. Tripp was hired as music director for Promise Land in September 1982. Music director would be called on a yearly basis at the same time as the pastor.

Started using pictures of the new church on church bulletin and purchased a copy machine.

Bro. Don McCormick was evangelist for our revival and Curtis Doss was in charge of the music.

Mr. Ardell Bates joined the Promise Land Church and was recognized as an ordained deacon.

Table was given in memory of John William Kilcrease and placed in vestibule.

Promise Land Church History was prepared and sent to the Arkansas History and Archives Committee to be microfilmed and placed in the Missionary Baptist Seminary in Little Rock. Mrs. Louise Wallace was chairman of this committee. Mrs. Wallace spent many hours working on Promise Land Church and Cemetery history.

#### 1983

Royal Ambassadors in The Master's Service (RAM) was organized for both older and younger boys.

New tile was placed in the fellowship hall, new kitchen cabinets built, and an icebox and stove added.

Money was given as a memorial to the Promise Land Church in memory of John Griffin and Maude Ida Pistole Carpenter by daughter, Lois Carpenter Meek, stating her parents, were lifelong loving and beloved former members of Promise Land Church and community. She requested starting a perpetual song book fund in memory of her parents. Request was granted. Her father was song director at Promise Land for many years.

Church agreed not to call a music director at this time.

Sandra Gwin helped the Girls Auxiliary members work on a library for the church. They used the old pastor's study, added book shelves, tables, new books and classified the books. They recommended that the church elect a librarian and an assistant. The GA's also purchased a copy machine for the church.

The young Adult Sunday School Class recommended that the church support a missionary in the Philippines. This was approved and a search started for the missionary.

1984

Sandra Gwin was elected church librarian and Nancy Collins her assistant. A library fund was started.

Library policies and classification system that had been set up were presented to the church and approved.

The deacons recommended that the church have two revivals each year. One would be in the spring and another in the fall with night services only.

New Church Covenant was put in the church and a new bus barn built.

Bro. Brown resigned as pastor May 20, 1984.

Church voted to discontinue the yearly call of a pastor.

MBYF bought an ice maker for the church.

Bro. B. G. Woodall was called as pastor Sunday, November 4, 1984.

Voted to observe the Lord's Supper the fifth Sunday.

Sent letter to Bro. Joel Dela Cerna in the Philippines inquiring if he would be interested in being our missionary. A set of qualifications was sent stating what was expected.

1985

Bro. Joel Dela Cerna was chosen as our missionary in the Philippines.

The Lord had richly blessed Promise Land. The note had been paid in full and the new sanctuary debt over.

The "Note Burning Service" was March 14, 1985. There were regular morning services, followed by a potluck lunch, and good fellowship. At 1:30 p.m., the special service started. Bro. B. G. Woodall was moderator. Deacons who signed the note were recognized. Norval Lee Cecil gave the history of note and the note burning was done by Norval Lee Cecil, treasurer and Bobby Jones chairman of deacons. Bro. Curtis Brown, our former pastor who was here when the money was borrowed, delivered the sermon. It was a blessed day.

A target date for a trip to the Philippines in the interest of our mission was set for 1988. Requested supplies and funds were sent to Bro. Joel Dela Cerna to help with the mission in Santo Thomas. The attendance was increasing at the mission and Bro. Joel was sending good reports from the work.

Youth led revival in August with Bro. Tom Hart as the evangelist.

Purchased a new piano.

Graduate Class for BTC was organized.

1986

Purchased 10 Bibles in the Cebuano language for the Philippine mission.

Youth asked permission to use bus for various outings. Among the rules set for the youth were: Good Christian conduct at all times, only gospel music played on bus, children riding bus to MBYF meetings could wear no shorts, halter tops or tank tops, children under 10 must be accompanied by parents. The request to use the bus was granted.

Philippine Mission is growing. Report from Bro. Dela Cerna was average Sunday School attendance-24, morning worship service average-35, midweek services average-22, evening worship-22.

Purchased a 1985 demonstrator church bus, would finance it through the bank and 3 deacons would sign note.

Had concrete slab poured in bus barn.

Had spring revival with Bro. Larry Clement evangelist.

Bro. J. R. Cecil was presented a plaque and love offering honoring 67 years in the Lord's ministry.

1987

Sold Promise Land old bus to Pine Forest for \$4,000.

In February, a committee was appointed to write the history of Promise Land Church to be used in a book being printed on the history of Ashley County. Mrs. Louise Wallace was chairman of this committee.

Steven Kelley was hired as Youth Director on a trial basis for six months in March 1987. The guidelines for youth director of Promise Land were read by Bro. Woodall. Steven's time was extended in September for an additional six months.

Had a spring revival with Bro. Ray Jones as evangelist.

Bro. Dela Cerna reported on the Philippines mission stating they averaged 55 in Sunday School, 74 in worship service and had collected an offering of \$60.30.

The old baptistry was floored to be used for storage.

Bro. Curtis Brown preached Homecoming message on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Amplifier was donated to church by Jimmy Stell and A. C. and Frances Kilcrease.

Philippine mission started a building fund.

Building and Grounds committee was appointed.

Steven resigned as Youth Director on December 31<sup>st</sup>, stating he planned to start going to the Seminary. Church voted to continue paying his salary through January.

1988

Put vinyl siding on outside of church where there was wood, except on posts in front and over cypress in the back.

Built a room for the PA system with Jimmy Stell elected to be in charge of the equipment.

A new pastor's study was built.

Plaque presented to Mrs. Alice Spurlin in commemoration for the work Bro. Spurlin had done at Promise Land.

Church voted to pay for Bro. Dela Cerna's expenses to come to the U. S. from the Philippines. Due to health problems, he was unable to make the trip.

Revival meeting in August with Bro. Jimmy Draper as evangelist.

Money sent to MBSF in Monticello to help with their new roof.

1989

Bro. Dela Cerna wrote stating he had had a lot of critical opposition from the New People's Army in the Philippines.

Revival in July with Bro. Jerry Carter as evangelist.

New Discovery Program for the youth was approved.

Bro. Dela Cerna considered it time to organize the mission in the Philippines into a church. Promise Land authorized their organization into a church. The church was named "Grace Missionary Baptist Church".

1990

Additional offering was sent by Promise Land to Grace Missionary Baptist Church in the Philippines to help finish their church building. They also saw the need to add Sunday School rooms. Their goal was to be in their new building by April 28<sup>th</sup>.

July 29<sup>th</sup> was proclaimed "Bro. J. R. Cecil Day" by Promise Land. There was potluck lunch and the Cecil children and grandchildren sang. A plaque was presented to him dedicating 70 years in the Lord's ministry.

In November, \$1500 was sent to Grace Missionary Baptist Church so they could complete their building and buy new pews. Bro. Dela Cerna reported in December they had 72 in Sunday School, 115 in morning worship, 53 in midweek service, 43 in B.T.C. and 54 in evening worship. He reported one saved that month and had baptized 3. The Lord was richly blessing the work in the Philippines.

1991

New carpet was put in the parsonage, along with new drapes for the living room.

A special event was planned to honor those who served in Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf. Those serving were Roger Miller, Danny Leigh and Eric Coulter. Bonnie Woodall chaired the preparation for this special service.

Storm windows were put in the parsonage.

Bro. Joel Della Cerna reported that all Sunday School rooms at Grace were completed. Promise Land voted to buy an organ for them.

In November the church sponsored a fish fry for the MBSF at UAM.

Prayer meeting time will be changed the week of Thanksgiving each year. Services will be on Tuesday night before Thanksgiving.

#### 1992

The church voted to sell the church bus and purchase vans.

The Philippine Building Fund was closed.

Business meeting was moved to the second Wednesday night of each month. In September 1992 a committee was appointed to review our policy on granting church letters and presented at the October meeting.

The committee reported to the church that the general consensus of the people they talked to was to grant letters stating the members are "in good standing". The church voted to accept these recommendations.

Norval Lee Cecil presented a collection of books belonging to his father, Bro. J. R. Cecil, to the church library.

#### 1993

Started taping our morning church services to be distributed to shut-ins.

Our first church directory was published. Mrs. Louise Wallace wrote the history page.

Mrs. Louise Wallace also wrote a history of the church that was submitted to Bro. Robert Ashcraft for the history and archives directory for the ABA churches.

The children's choir presented a patriotic program as part of our worship services on Sunday morning, July 4, 1993.

Improvements were made on the church parking area to include paving the front parking areas.

A monthly potluck luncheon for adults was started. The third Tuesday night was selected to have the luncheon.

Emergency lights were added to the auditorium, nursery, choir loft and pulpit area.

#### 1994

Jacque Hennington updated the Veterans names hanging in the hall as you leave the sanctuary foyer.

An addition measuring 22' x 36' was added to the north end of the parsonage.

The church parking lot was enlarged and paved.

The Ladies Auxiliary had plates with the church pictures and some of the church early history printed. Former pastors or surviving pastor's wives were to receive a plate.

Travis and Linda Wallace donated the lighted cross above the baptistry in memory of Claude and Lavelle Wallace, Carol Collins and Lt. Col. Donnie Holland who was killed serving in The Persian Gulf.

#### 1995

In January church voted to stop receiving the building fund offering and close out the account. Any funds in treasury above \$5,000 would be applied toward bank note.

A special love offering for Bro. Ray Jones, a former pastor, was taken. This would be presented to him on January 30, 1995, at a retirement reception held for him at West Crossett M.B.C.

The Senior High Girls Class hosted a mother/daughter Banquet on the Saturday before Mother's Day.

In March the Adult Ladies purchased a 12 volume set of books for the library in memory of Mrs. Marie Mooney, Bro. John Mooney's mother.

A special offering was taken on Easter Sunday, April 6, and was divided between the Missionary Baptist Seminary and the ABA Missions.

A security light was installed on the north side of the building in May.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup> Bro. Steven Crane, son of former pastor G. S. Crane, preached and spoke on his mission work in Romania, Bulgaria, and Macedonia.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Promise Land Missionary Baptist Church hosted the 72<sup>nd</sup> annual session of the Bartholomew Landmark Baptist Association.

#### 1996

Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, services were cancelled because of extremely icy roads and hazardous parking lot conditions.

Mrs. Louise Wallace read a report from the mission committee regarding the possibility of our church starting a Hispanic mission work in this area. Bro. John Mooney, pastor, had contacted a man from El Salvador who is in the country on a work visa. James and Sandra Gwin had offered the use of a building they rent for the Hispanic Work. Bro. John reported on a Spanish speaking student, Julio Anzora, who was possibly interested in this work. Bro. Anzora was invited to come and meet with our church on March 11.

Deanna Foster and Jacque Hennington redecorated the nursery.

In April, the Mission Committee recommended giving 25% of the regular offerings to missions with designated amounts being sent to these we already sponsor.

The Ladies Auxiliary reworked flower beds at the parsonage. Also, the church voted to purchase gutters to be put on the front of the parsonage.

In May the Butch Hill Family built a 20 x 40 metal pavilion on a concrete slab on the south side of the church in memory of Billy Hill.

The church presented A.C. Kilcrease a plaque thanking him for his willingness to use his talents in the church on December 15. This was in honor of his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday.

1997

Bro. Jeff Alderman was selected as pastor on April 30.

May 6<sup>th</sup>, the men of the church cooked breakfast for the women on Mother's Day.

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the church voted to purchase a Dodge van with a 360 engine, touring package, and dual air for \$25,000 to be financed at Farmers Bank.

1998

The Lois Circle volunteered to help Deanna Foster with getting a church directory together.

The church voted to start ordering Bibles to have available to present to new converts in the August business meeting.

In October the church voted to replace the carpet, pew and choir chair covers in the sanctuary and to paint the walls.

1999

In February floor covering in the foyer and bathrooms, along with the carpet in the hallways, were replaced with a gift given to the church. The sound system was also upgraded.

The draperies for the baptistry were replaced in March.

The church received two rolls of microfilm from Robert Ashcraft that contained copies of our church minutes in November. Earlier the church had voted to have the minutes microfilmed with a copy going to the Little Rock Seminary Archives.

The church officers signed a right-of-way easement for rural water.

A legal size, fireproof file cabinet was purchased for church records.

2000

In April a card from the church along with a money clip and \$200.00, was given to Bro. B. G. Woodall, a former pastor, in honor of his 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the ministry.

In June Bro. Kenny Williams was unanimously elected to serve as pastor. Bro. Williams first Sunday was July 23, 2000.

In August the church clerk was allowed to start purchasing minute books that could be opened in order to begin typing the minutes instead of hand writing them.

The church started contributing \$50.00 per month to the library fund in September.

The church voted to purchase a new van in October.

## 2001

In February, a committee consisting of Norman Higginbotham, Jimmy Stell, Jeff Foster, and Charles Wells were asked to look into some preliminary prices and options concerning the need of, and building, a new family life center. Several men visited other facilities. Following discussion after the committee's reports, the church voted to build the Family Life Center.

In a special meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>, ShepCo received the low bid for a 20' x 70' Family Life Center. A bid of \$94,925.00 was submitted to include a 4' slab, labor, concrete, insulation, a 20' x 20' drive through between the old building and the new building and the metal for the building with the church doing the dirt work. The following Sunday afternoon the men met with Eddie Shepherd of ShepCo to discuss the floor plan. Later, following a special meeting, the church approved some revisions to the earlier contract. The total cost of the new contract was \$109,165.00.

Following a visit in April by some of the women of another facility, they recommended a few changes to the new kitchen. A motion carried to make these changes, along with installing showers so the building would qualify to be used in emergency situations.

A construction loan was obtained at Farmers Bank for \$150,000 at 7.5% interest.

\*\*The first event to be held in the new Promise Land Family Life Center was Keith and Nan Erwin's wedding reception on September 15, 2001, with over 300 guests in attendance.\*\*

## 2003

In January the church began a monthly support to Calvary MBC in Hamburg. This will help with The Worldwide Literature Program the church sponsored.

In June the church voted to enlarge the stage and add new carpet. Don Wallace was asked to draw up plans for this project.

Jacque Hennington was asked to do scenes depicting the life of Jesus to be placed above the piano and organ.

In December Bro. Glen Knight showed slides and gave a progress report on their Philippine Building project and ministry outreach he and his family has been involved with for the past ten years. Bro. Knight thanked the church for our support in this ministry.

## 2004

In January Bro. Curtis Brown, a former pastor, was elected to be our speaker at Homecoming in June.

A gift was sent to Bro. Curtis Brown in October for 50 years in the ministry.

## 2005

Bro. Michael Reese began his service as pastor of Promise Land on March 27, 2005.

The flooring in the Hope Room was replaced and the walls were repainted.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Kelley presented a baby grand piano to the church as a gift in June.



In August, the church housed several people who were victims of Hurricane Katrina. Committees were established to have someone in charge of meals, bedding, and personal needs.

The church purchased a generator for a former pastor, Bro. G. S. Crane, who lives in Gulfport, MS, since they were also affected by the storm.

In November the church voted to build a 24' x 31' shed on the west end of the existing storage building and put a patio cover on the back of the parsonage.

#### 2007

An invitation was extended to Evan Blackford for the position of interim Youth Director in March. Bro. Kenny Williams was invited to be with the church on Homecoming day and have a note burning in conjunction with homecoming.

In July, a new library is to be built using some the space in the old fellowship hall.

#### 2008

Deacons and wives were honored on February 24<sup>th</sup>. A banquet followed the regular Sunday night service.

In May Building and Grounds committee recommended, and was accepted, to put laminate flooring upstairs in the Family Life Center.

Flag poles were erected in the courtyard by the drive-thru between the buildings in July.

In August Jack Shell donated the property behind the parsonage to the church.

#### 2009

In January Bro. Michael Reese and Bobby Shockley visited mission points in the Philippines that our church supports.

Ronnie Coulter, Jeff Foster, Rodney Chapman and Billy Don Cecil were nominated for candidates for deacons. A set-aside time of three months was established before ordination.

February 15<sup>th</sup>, Trey Emory told the church of his decision to surrender to the ministry.

The four candidates for deacons were ordained at 2 p.m., Sunday April 26, 2009.

In May, a license for an approval to preach was given to Bro. Trey Emory until ordination services are scheduled.

In August Bro. Joel Dillahunty showed slides of Belize, a mission point for which he felt the Lord was leading him.

The church voted to offer sponsorship to Bro. Joel Dillahunty for the Belize mission in December. He and his family left for the Belize mission field in July, 2010.

#### 2010

When the Promise Land Lodge disbanded, the land reverted back to the Jack Shell family. Mr. Shell then gave this property to the church in August.

In September the church voted to begin the Upward Basketball Program.

Bro. Dillahunty was able to secure a two-story building to be used for both residence and seminary.

2011

In January Bro. Trey Emory was hired as associate pastor.

In March the church purchased the property that Bro. Dillahunty secured in October of 2010, from El Dorado MBC for \$69,000.00.

A 12' x 12' room was added on the west side of the parsonage for a utility room. The kitchen was upgraded at this time.

In September, a modular home was purchased as housing for the associate pastor to be placed behind the parsonage.

2012

Bro. Michael and Karen Reese went on a Mission trip to the Philippines.

Trey Emory was ordained October 6, 2012. Bro. Michael preached the ordination service and gave Trey his charge.

In November, a "Memorandum of Understanding" was signed between the church and Pre-K at Hamburg Public Schools. In the event the school had to evacuate, this school is allowed to use our facility.

