



Let's Roll

Make a difference

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From Pastor Bill . . .

What is history, but His-Story. GBC (Gospel Baptist Church) is a tale of Jesus' work through the weak, base, and despised. We numbered around 29 with counting the cats, dogs, and fleas!! Ha.

I preached the third and fifth Sundays these folks met together at the Shangri-La in Bonita Springs. **The feeling was immediate, that something was different about these folks.** I had preached to many fledgling churches and was asked to come and be their preacher, but none seemed to have the **"touch of God"** on them like these folks.

Cathy and I talked about the spirit of the group. They were simple, open, Bible-based, evangelistic, and honest. **The spirit of "genuineness" was all over them.**

I was finishing up a three year stint at Ft. Myers Bible Institute and as Assistant Pastor of Community Baptist Church. No one knew this, but we were looking for another place of service. Jim McCollum called me and asked me if I would consider "Pastoring" them.

I prayed about this fervently, but just could not get the "green light" from God. I called back and informed Jim that I would love to be an Assistant Pastor for free, if they would have me! Like any good Baptists, they agreed!! Ha. Really, we just fit well together. **We had a passion for the bus ministry and kids getting saved from the very first day.** Just two humble rusty vans were our total outreach. If we had 30 kids, it was a "Super Sunday" for us. God's hand of blessing has been on us from the start. Many free things came our way. We were given the 5 acres we are on for \$20,000 total (that was a gift, by Chris and Jean Powell, with Jack Van Impe, too). We received the fill for almost free. The beautiful brick pavers (14,000 sq. ft.) were given to us and installed for \$2,000.00.

We never have paid for a new shingle roof, though we have replaced two of them so far, because each time they need replacing, a hurricane blows a few off, and we get a free upgraded replacement from the insurance company!!! (Don't tell them how it has been working, o.k.?) On and on it could go. **We never hoped or expected any of these free things, and always tried to pay for whatever we received, but God just wouldn't stand for it!**

Our philosophy all these years has been that when anyone comes by GBC, **we want to "bless their socks off,"** that includes the hired staff, evangelists, missionaries, or any of God's workers. God has seen that spirit and **"blessed our socks off"** more than we could tell!

His-Story is this: Jesus never fails, never forgets your work of love for the Saints, and unsaved that He loves so much. Help those He loves, and He helps you help them. That is our story. We are just a bunch of H.O.G.S. (**Helping Others Grow Spiritually**) wallowing in the blessings of service for the King.

Love you all, Bill

"To know the will of God is the greatest knowledge, to find the will of God is the greatest discovery, and to do the will of God is the greatest achievement."

-- Author Unknown

Our Local Church - A Testimony from Chuck & Kim Santangelo, Members, GBC



We came to GBC in perfect timing and by God's mercy. It was a Wednesday night that we came in order to bring the children to the AWANA program.

In the main service for the adults, Pastor Lytell was doing a series on marriage, which is exactly what we needed. We were having trouble like most couples, but had never heard the truth of marriage preached in this way. By God's grace, we were helped instantly.

The teaching was right down where we live and it helped us in our everyday battles such as living with each other, working everyday, taking care of chores such as homework and housework, going to church, etc.

Because of the teaching of GBC, in a very loving and straightforward manner, we were able to gain order in our family, which God has designed from the beginning of time. It means so much to us that there is a God-powered local church like GBC to help families, which in turn build better communities.

Their love for the brethren is not just a mushy love which is pushed all over America. It is a love that cares about men leading their wives and children to a closer relationship with Jesus and teaching men to, in turn, teach their wives and children to also serve Jesus.

The more I commit myself to loving God in my life as a husband, the more He has blessed my wife and children. **I do not speak of God blessing my wants, but God blessing me in the areas which I really need Him to.** I thank God that He has helped us with this through this local church.

Our marriage has grown to glorify God in unity and relationship now at GBC than in any other time of our Christian walk. The local church here is a God-filled church with loving and real people; no phonies. **They love and serve Jesus.** They are not perfect, but strive to be all that God wants them to be. They love one another like Jesus said to.

All the pastors encourage us and lift us up. **They preach the whole counsel of God in a way that helps build your relationship with Jesus.** They challenge us and keep us accountable in the areas of family and ministry.

"Pastor Moon loved us in an uncompromising way, standing on the proof of God's Word."

The challenges are so real that Pastor Moon did a six-month discipleship course with us starting with a clear conscience. We were never taught this stuff. **We knew it was what we needed, looking back at our pasts.**

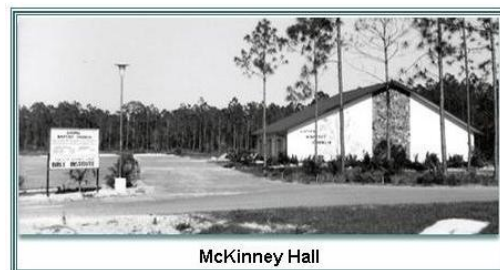
There were good days as well as bad days in this study, yet the Bible says **"that the words of a friend are faithful, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."** I have been to lunch with the pastors on several occasions and I see their lives; they are for real.

Another area that we have been challenged in is with the school. My wife was asked to step out by faith and teach in the school. She was very open to the leading of the Holy Spirit and she has walked through that open door. **It has been one of the greatest things in her life.** There have been tough days, but all this has helped her in her walk with Christ as she has been around a godly influence at the school.

What good is a local church that doesn't help make your relationship with Jesus become more real and loving? I thank God for the ministry of Gospel Baptist Church.

27 Years of Building Gospel Baptist Church

- **February 27, 1980** - The church began with 29 people in the home of Ernie Stewart.
- Dr. V.L. Martin served as the interim pastor until **June 25, 1980**.
- **April 11, 1980** - Eve Broughton, Dorothy Alderman & Carol Henderson knelt and asked God to give GBC the very ground they were kneeling on. God heard their prayer and answered. The church stands on the very property.
- **April 30, 1980** - Gospel Baptist Church called Harry McKinney to become it's Senior Pastor.
- **February 22, 1981** - Groundbreaking for what is now the McKinney Fellowship Hall.
- **December 27, 1981** - The first church service was held in McKinney Hall.
- **September 12, 1982** - SW Florida Bible Institute held its first classes at GBC.
- **September 2, 1986** - Gospel Baptist Christian School opens its doors with nine students.
- **December 22, 1987** - Groundbreaking for Christian F. Powell Education Building (otherwise known as our "two story building").
- **February 7, 1988** - The two-story educational building was formally dedicated.
- **April 15, 1992** - William Lytell is called to be the Senior Pastor.
- **April 1, 1995** - John Boutchia is called to be Assistant Pastor.
- **December 1995** - Construction began for the Jim McCollum Bus Barn.
- **June 1997** - Vicente Herrera is called to be the Pastor of Iglesia Bautista Buenas Nuevas.
- **February 6-7, 1998** - First Annual Ladies' Retreat at Gospel Baptist Church.
- **June 1998** - Construction began for the Ernie Stewart Auditorium.
- **June 18, 2000** - First service in new auditorium.
- **January 28, 2001** - Dr. Bob Jones III preaches a dedication service for the new auditorium.
- **June 16, 2001** - A call is extended to Marty Moon to become Youth Pastor.
- **February 10, 2002** - Marty Howell, longtime missionary to Honduras, requests that Gospel Baptist Church become his sending church. A unanimous vote was given.
- **September 11, 2003** - Sandy Dodd becomes the Church Secretary.
- **April 2004** - Jeff Larson became Business Manager.
- **April 2006** - Warren Brown joins the church staff as Audio/Visual Technician.



Upcoming Events at Gospel Baptist Church

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| June 1st: | Gospel Baptist Christian High School Graduation |
| June 18th - 22nd: | Vacation Bible School: "Wild Bill's Western Rodeo" |
| July 9th -13th: | Gospel Baptist Church Youth Group @ Camp Mt. Moriah, Knoxville, TN |
| July 25th: | Academy of Arts, Greenville, S.C. @ Gospel Baptist Church |