

*A BRIEF HISTORY
OF
BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH
CHUGIAK, ALASKA*



*Compiled By
Dr. Tim Page, Pastor
2009*



*Missionary Founder
Gregg Turnbull*



*Missionary Pastor
Charles Leonard*



*Pastor
Dr. Tim Page with Wife DeEtta*



*Interim Missionary
Stan Roach*



*Layman
Mr. Anton Becker*

PREFACE

When we sit in our comfortable church pews and listen to missionaries and pastors plead the cause for world missions, most of us are willing to give but God calls us to "GO". In the Great Commission, Jesus said in Matthew 28:19, "Go ye...". That commandment is to the local church, which is responsible to spread the Gospel near and far. As a worker, giver and soul-winner in my local Baptist church in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, I was content to do my part locally and, through my Faith-Promise missions giving to our missionaries, to the uttermost part of the earth. But, God had another plan for my life. Permit me to share my personal testimony of how God called me into the ministry and missionary work. I trust you will see what God can accomplish through ordinary people who follow His leading in their lives.

During a Missions Conference in March of 1972, God impressed upon my heart the need to fully surrender my life for whatever He wanted me to do. So, I went forward during the invitation and told my pastor that I was willing to follow God's leading in my life. Well, nothing happened for five months, so I did what I was already doing. Then things happened very fast. As my family was returning home from our summer vacation, we stopped to spend a day at Disney World. I caught a terrible head cold. In fact, I was so sick the next day, I couldn't even go to church with the family. After my wife and four children left for the services, I turned the radio on and listened to Evangelist Oliver B. Greene. God used that message to impress upon me His desire for me to be in the Gospel preaching ministry. That night, I felt somewhat better, so I went to church. During the invitation, I went forward and said to the altar worker that God had called me to preach. She handed the card to Pastor Jerry Williamson and he didn't read what was on the card. He turned to the congregation and said, "I believe that God has called Bro. Turnbull to the mission field". At first, my heart sank; I didn't really want to leave town. I guess I thought that the pastor would just retire and I would take over. I really didn't have a clue as to what would happen next. Monday, I still didn't feel very chipper so I stayed in bed and turned on the radio again. This

time Bro. Greene had some valuable direction for me. He said, "If you have a call to the ministry, you have a call to prepare". At least going back to college would give me some time to discern God's direction for my life.

For clarity's sake, let me digress five years so you can see how God used events that later gave me an assurance of His perfect will for my life. In 1967, my family was invited to Calvary Baptist Church on Commercial Blvd. in Ft. Lauderdale, FL (we lived across the street from the church). The children were enrolled in Thomas Edison Christian School which was a ministry of the church. My oldest son, Richard, was in the first grade and Mary Talkington was his teacher. Mr. & Mrs. Fletcher Talkington had gone to Alaska as missionaries when they were over fifty years old. That seemed very old when I was twenty-four. This was our first contact with someone who had been directly involved in the ministry in Alaska. About two years later, Duane King came to our church from Tok, Alaska to present the work. Duane was a commercial pilot, as I was, and we hit it off quite well. He brought his family to our house and we talked about Alaska, flying and the ministry. I asked if it was necessary to go to Bible college in order to be a missionary and he said that it would be important for me to go if I expected to get support from other local churches. That news was very defeating because I had four children and a mortgage. Actually, I had very little faith. I didn't know the adage "Where God guides, God provides".

During the next year, the Talkington's relocated to Atlanta, GA where Mr. T. was a maintenance man and Mrs. T. was a first grade teacher at Dekalb Christian School. We remained in contact and visited with them while on vacations. On one such trip, Mr. T. asked if we would like to see his slides of Alaska. I said, "Yes". I was very interested in the pictures. After his missionary slide presentation, he said, "Since our return from Alaska, we have been praying for a young couple to go up there and take our place". I said, "I'll be glad to pray with you about that Mr. T. and he said, "You don't understand, I'm praying for you to go". I was very quick to respond, "You can forget that, I'll never go to Alaska". Well, needless to say, I believe God wrote my name down next to Alaska.

Now lets jump back to August 1972. "A call to the ministry is a call to prepare". Where? Tom and Sandra Hamilton were the only graduates of Baptist Bible College that I was acquainted with and I really liked their zeal in the ministry. Also, our close friends, Ralph and Sandy Cheatwood, had just left for BBC in Springfield, MO to prepare for missionary work in Turkey. To be truthful, I didn't investigate any other options. The fall term started in three weeks and I couldn't make that so I planned to go in January of 1973. I told my boss at work when I would be leaving and he said fine. I still had a lot of work to do on the 1,100 square foot addition I was putting on our house plus finding a buyer, etc, etc.

It's interesting how we can talk about doing things but until we make a decision we may not have an assurance of whether we are following God's leading or getting out in front. Well, I had no peace about waiting so I went back to my boss and said, "Ronnie, I have to leave a little sooner than January". He asked when my last day at work would be and I said, "tomorrow". I hired my uncle to finish and sell my house. Then I called Sandy Cheatwood and asked her to reserve an apartment for us. I reserved a U-Haul truck and started packing. I mailed my application to BBC and didn't get a reply before it was time to leave. I believed that if God wanted me there, He would lead them to accept me. Three weeks later, we arrived in Springfield just in time for school to start. During orientation, I was assigned a mail box at the college. When I opened it, there was a slip of paper in it with a note which simply said, "Mr. T. went home to be with the Lord". Fletcher Talkington had prayed for me for years to take his place in the "Great Land" as a missionary. On the very eve of my preparation for the Gospel ministry, God took Fletcher home. This was God's confirmation to me that I was to go to Alaska as a missionary.

Throughout the time I was in school and during deputation, God confirmed over and over again His direction for the ministry He wanted for me.

After graduation, I was asked by the Missions Director of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International to cover the Bible Baptist Church in Wrangell, Alaska so their missionary, Dan Baldwin, could go outside on furlough. I agreed and after doing eleven months of deputation, we arrived in Wrangell in an 8' x 25'

Wilderness Travel Trailer. I thought it would be easy to rent a house or apartment but since there was nothing vacant, all six of us lived in the travel trailer for five months. Oh me! Patience took on a whole new meaning. Since it rained 360 days a year in southeast Alaska, we spent a lot of time indoors.

By November 1975, it was obvious that the Baldwins were not going on furlough so we were a little out of place. Since my ultimate goal was to start a church in Alaska, it seemed appropriate for us to move north and pray for God's direction.

Finding housing in the Anchorage area provided a good Christian school for the children to attend and gave me several directions to survey where a good church might be needed.

After some serious time in prayer, I got in my van and drove northeast out of Anchorage. I exited the Glenn Highway at Eagle River and continued toward the Matanuska Valley on the Old Glenn Highway. I was praying as I drove for some sign or impression as to where God wanted me to plant a church. Never having done this before, I didn't really know what to expect, but I know God is faithful and "where He guides, He provides". As I got to the area known as Chugiak, I noticed the Old Chugiak Elementary School which looked vacant. I turned in and seeing a car in the drive, I knocked on the door. Mr. Anton Becker was the caretaker of the buildings. He invited me in and we chatted for a while when I noticed some of the books in his library. Books a student of the Scriptures would study. When I told him that God had directed me to start an independent, pre-millennial, fundamental, soul-winning, New Testament Baptist Church, he got a really big smile on his face. So, I asked if his buildings might be available for rent. He directed me to Mr. Burg who was on the board, which controlled the properties. That name sounded Jewish but that didn't stop me from asking. Remember that I said I was looking for a sign or impression; well, here it was. On the commercial market in Chugiak, this property could rent for over \$2,400.00 per month. I explained to Mr. Burg why we needed the building and he replied, "You can have all the space you need, FREE". Isn't it great to serve the One who never fails! You could have knocked me over with a feather.

I had a friend at Anchorage Baptist Temple who painted a church sign for me. While that was being done, the newspapers were contacted to announce the first service of the Chugach Bible Baptist Church on January 11, 1976. Not knowing where the church would eventually have a permanent location, I named the church after the mountain range to the east of our area. The Chugach Bible Baptist Church, however, became increasingly hard to say at 30 degrees below zero as I visited every house, apartment, cabin, trailer and mobile home from Eagle River to Birchwood. So, the name was shortened to Bible Baptist Church.

As I returned to Alaska in August 2005, I was blessed beyond measure at how well the Bible Baptist Church of Chugiak, Alaska is doing under the leadership of Pastor Tim Page. My heart was thrilled to see the progress the church has made since I left Alaska some twenty years ago.

This book is a history of God's leadership in the lives of several men called of God into the ministry and the people whom God saved and molded into the Bible Baptist Church of Chugiak, Alaska.

May reading this volume motivate you to be a contributor to the cause of Christ through the local church where God has planted you.

Your servant in Christ,

Gregg A. Turnbull

Former Missionary to Alaska

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Summer 2008

A HISTORY OF BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHUGIAK, ALASKA

Introduction:

Salvation Testimony of Gregg A. Turnbull

Early in 1962, I was finishing Basic Training at Ft. Jackson, SC. My first weekend pass was greatly anticipated. As I stepped off the bus which brought the servicemen into Columbia, I was greeted by a nice looking young man in a suit. He asked me if I died today, would I be sure of Heaven? I immediately recounted all the reasons why God would be pleased to have me in Heaven with Him. When pressed, however, I had to admit that I wasn't 100% sure of my destination. He invited me to a servicemen's center where they had "FREE FOOD FOR THE SOLDIERS". It was like saying "sic'em" to a bulldog. I love to eat.

After several of us loaded our plates, we sat at a small table where we were joined by another clean cut young man with a New Testament. I believe his name was Bill and he was a senior at Columbia Bible College. Bill asked if we knew what he was holding. I said, "the Bible". He asked if we believed it. I answered with a resounding YES. It's strange, but the church I grew up in believes that the Bible Contains the Word of God. How sad for those who don't know that the Bible is the Word of God. Anyway, Bill went down the Romans Road and not to far down the road the two Catholic guys that were seated with us got up and said "we don't need this. Our church says we're okay, and they left. I couldn't believe it. This was the greatest thing that I had ever heard. I said "tell me more". Bill continued through the plan of salvation and finally asked if I would like to ask The LORD Jesus Christ to save my soul. I couldn't bow my head fast enough. God saved me that day and I'll be eternally grateful.

Call to Ministry & Missions Testimony of Gregg A. Turnbull

Brother Gregg Turnbull first arrived in Wrangell, Alaska, in what is known as Southeast or the panhandle of the state and helped with the organization of the Bible Baptist Church there for several months. He then felt led of God to come to Chugiak, located thirty minutes north of Alaska's largest city Anchorage. Arriving in December of 1975, he immediately got busy and organized the Chugach Bible Baptist Church holding the churches first service on January 11, 1976.

1976

At this time the Chugiak Elementary School was not being used. Mr. Burg, the chairman of the board that controlled the building, was contacted and after he learned the need and how the building would be used there was no rent charged. The first service on January 11th was held in room # 6 with a combined Sunday School and Worship service together and that night bible doctrines were taught to the newly formed church and new converts. A midweek prayer & bible study was held on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8 pm. The second week of February a separate Sunday School was started. During that same month there were ten first time visitors, one of which, Mrs. Margaret Reichle was saved.

A goal of fifty in attendance was set for Easter Sunday and 68 people came as a result of the efforts of the church. That same month a Junior Church was started to accommodate all the children. The first Vacation Bible School was held during June with 107 children registered.

In July, Pastor Spencer Williamson and his wife from the Calvary Baptist Church, Brother Turnbull's home church, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, preached a four day meeting with a Chartering service on Sunday the 18th of July 1976. Sixteen people signed the original charter to officially organize the church. An additional four were baptized that day who also signed the charter and two more signed on the

following Sunday, the 25th, for a total of twenty four charter members. Mrs. Debbie Dooley was elected as church clerk and Mr. Jim Carver as treasurer. The church voted Brother Turnbull to be their missionary pastor until such time as the church became indigenous or the Lord leads Brother Turnbull to another ministry. The church experienced rapid growth from its conception because of the aggressive evangelistic efforts of Brother Turnbull.

1977

In March of 1977 Brother Turnbull returned to his alma mater of Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri to seek out a pastor for the church. After speaking with several people, Brother Glen Metcalf indicated he felt the Lord would have him to take over as pastor of the church. Arrangements were made to have the Metcalf family come to Chugiak in the summer after the end of his second year. Also a single student, Brother Myron Johnson, indicated he would like to come and help out over the summer months to gain some practical experience for the ministry. Five other families from the school said they would be considering service in Alaska as missionaries after their graduation. The last week of March Brother Turnbull had the opportunity to attend the world famous Hyle's Pastors School at the First Baptist Church in Hammond, Indiana.

The Turnbolls planned to leave in July of 1977 on furlough to report back to their supporting churches and Brother Glen Metcalf was to take over the church. Brother Metcalf and Myron Johnson arrived the 9th of June and the Metcalf's were extended a unanimous vote by the church to be the first fulltime pastor. His ordination service was held the on June 17th which was a first for this new church.

However, the Metcalfs were not able to stay and returned to Springfield shortly after his ordination to finish his training. This put the Turnbolls in a difficult position because they had meetings scheduled for the coming year. The men of the church suggested that Brother Anton Becker be called as the Pastor. Brother Becker was a charter member of the church and was the custodian of the Chugiak Elementary School where the church was started. Brother Becker was a retired lay preacher who has given his life to helping in countless ministries all over the world.

Brother Becker believed that Brother Turnbull was the answer to his prayer to have a Bible preaching church in this area. On August 7th the call was extended to Anton Becker and he became the first fulltime pastor and the church became self supporting. The Turnbuls left on furlough and planned to return to another part of Alaska to start another church after they finished furlough.

1978

Upon his return from furlough in July of 1978, Brother Turnbull found the Chugach Bible Baptist Church attendance diminished to two families and one of those was planning to move outside soon. On August 27, 1978, the church voted Brother Turnbull to be their missionary pastor until such a time as the church could increase in number to be able to support a pastor. So he began the work of rebuilding the church.

The decision was made to move the church to Eagle River, just a few miles to the south of Chugiak, for more exposure to a higher population. A building was located in Eagle River owned by Mr. Galen Atwater. It was formerly a Chiropractic Clinic. There was a liquor store also owned by Mr. Atwater next door and the legal problems were a concern to the owner, however he agreed to rent to the church on a monthly basis for only \$400. The church took occupancy on December the 11, 1978. A large sign was placed on the front of the building and the name was shortened to just Bible Baptist Church. After only four months in this building Mr. Atwater rented it to another client for a higher price but also provided another building on the main highway, Artillery Road, fairly close to the present location for the same rent. This building was not as large and was on the second floor but was adequate to meet the needs of the church at that time. The move was complete by the middle of March.

1979

In June of 1979, Pastor Steve Pitchford came to work with Brother Turnbull at Bible Baptist Church. They had corresponded for some months. Brother Pitchford was seeking God's will as to where he would have him serve in Alaska. It was thought that he would take over the pastorate and the church began paying his

salary because he had no support. Brother Pitchford was in charge of the music program, taught in the Sunday School and did a great deal of visiting for the church. However in a few months a church in Anchorage lost their pastor due to health reason and Brother Pitchford felt compelled to take the pastorate of this church in October.

The church continued to grow with numerous people being saved and baptized. The people of the church got involved in the work and God blessed with a great increase in the attendance. In the beginning of 1980 the wall between the two rooms the church was renting in the upstairs of the Atwater building was removed and an additional room was rented to provide for a nursery. This being done the church could accommodate eighty people. During the coming year Brother Turnbull was preparing for another furlough and needed to find a Pastor for this work before he went outside. The attendance was reaching capacity for the facilities at that time.

1982

Pastor Charles Leonard had been working with Brother Bob Larrabee in the Kenai Baptist Temple in Kenai Alaska in their academy for a short time. Brother Leonard had pastored in Ohio and had also been a teacher at Massillon Baptist Bible College. He was extended a call in the later part of the year and accepted the pastorate in January of 1982. At this time the church was considered to be self-supporting; however, Pastor Leonard did have a small amount of missionary support when he came to Alaska a few months previous. Brother Turnbull then went outside on furlough.

Charles Leonard:

Pastor Charles Leonard was born and raised in Radford, Virginia. He grew up in the Calvary Baptist Church and at the age of 13 after being under the convicting power of the Spirit of God for some months accepted Christ as his personal Lord and saviour on his knees beside his bed on July the 12, 1952. The following Sunday he made a public profession of his faith at his church and was baptized shortly thereafter.

After High School he attended Piedmont Bible College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina the years of 1957-1958 and graduated from Tennessee Temple Bible College in Chattanooga Tennessee in 1963.

While at Tennessee Temple he began his pastoral ministry by pasturing the Fields Avenue Baptist Church in Dalton Georgia which was part of the chapel ministry of Tennessee Temple College. After graduation he started the Calvary Baptist Church in Clover, South Carolina. He then pastored the Faith Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. Pastor Leonard was the associate pastor of the Country Baptist Church in Akron, Ohio for a time and then started the Maranatha Baptist Church in Magadore, Ohio where he served until coming to Alaska in 1979.

During his ministry in Ohio he also taught at Massillon Baptist College the years of 1978-1979 under Dr. Bruce Cummons of Massillon Baptist Temple. He taught several classes which included Old & New Testament Survey, Elemental Theology and Life & Letters of Paul.

Pastor Leonard has the gift of evangelism and has preached hundreds of revival meetings through the years. While pastoring the Maranatha Baptist church in Magadore Ohio one of the missionaries the church supported, Brother Bob Larrabee, asked Brother Leonard to come to Kenai Alaska and preach a week long meeting. During that week God burdened his heart for a ministry in Alaska. He came to Alaska in 1979 and worked with Pastor Larrabee at the Kenai Baptist Temple in their Christian school (Wings Christian Academy) and the church for approximately two years.

The Trip To Alaska:

As a side note the trip moving to Kenai Alaska is quite out of the ordinary.

Pastor Leonard's wife Shirley was a diabetic plus she had undergone open heart surgery just a short time before they moved and hadn't regained all of her strength back as yet. They loaded all their possessions into a twenty foot travel trailer which they pulled with a 1976 Ford pickup truck and made their way up the Alcan highway through Canada which at that time was a winding, twisty all gravel road. After a few breakdowns and several flat tires one the wheels on the trailer broke at Fort Nelson in Canada's Northwest Territory. Brother Leonard called Bob Larrabee who had an airplane. He picked up a new wheel in Anchorage and flew it to Fort Nelson along with John Crawford, one of the teachers in his school. They repaired the trailer and John went with Pastor Leonard to help drive and repair anything else that might break down.

Brother Larrabee flew Shirley and their daughter Kimberlee back to Kenai in the plane. They had flown for over an hour over the unpopulated wilderness of Canada's North country when suddenly 6 to 8 inches of one of the propeller blades broke off. This caused a great imbalance and could have torn the engine from the plane. Brother Larrabee shut the engine off and stopped the propeller from turning by stalling the aircraft. After the immediate danger was over but the plane without power was now in a glide Brother Larrabee looked down to see the Alcan Highway directly underneath them somewhere in the area of Beaver Creek. He made an emergency landing on the road and every one was safe. It happened so quickly that his passengers didn't have time to realize how serious the situation was at the time.

Traffic on the Alcan this far north is very sparse but the very first vehicle to come along was a man in a pickup whose destination was, and you will never believe it, Kenai Alaska. His grand-daughter was in a private school as he called it; the private school was Wings Christian Academy; his grand-daughter was a student in Brother Larrabee's school so the man took Shirley and Kimberlee on to Kenai in the truck. Brother Larrabee took a hack saw and cut the same amount off of the other propeller blade so it would be in balance and flew it to Anchorage for repairs. Several days later everyone involved ended up in Kenai at the church safe and sound.

1981

While working under Pastor Bob Larrabee at the Kenai Baptist Temple in Kenai the Bible Baptist Church contacted Brother Larrabee seeking help in finding a pastor. Brother Leonard was recommended to them in the spring of 1981. After candidating for a month the church extended a call and Pastor Charles Leonard became the fulltime pastor in the summer of 1981.

Again the church had been without a pastor for some time and the attendance had fallen off. Brother Leonard got busy and the church began to grow. Brother Anton Becker was a great help. He lived at the Chugiak Senior Center and every week was faithful to go to the Palmer Pioneer Home in Palmer and the Mary Conrad Center in Anchorage, both of which were retirement and health care facilities for the elderly, and minister to the residents. He would teach Sunday School and anything else he was capable of doing at his age and was a great help to Pastor Leonard and the church. He was a singer and played the piano which the church looked forward to hearing him sing often.

The church was engaged in several ministries. They helped Brother Stan Roach, a missionary who attended the church under Brother Leonard Pastorate, with his summer Wilderness Camps. Pastor Leonard started a Christian School that God blessed richly and they open it to students outside the church. They had a prison ministry at Highland Correctional Center in Eagle River every Thursday evening. For two years Brother Roach helped and on Wednesday evenings they had two hours of Bible study as well as prayer time and called it "Family Bible Institute." Several men and teenage boys were called to preach during the nine years Brother Leonard was their pastor. Some of which were John Tuck, Glenn Harbaugh which is now the pastor of the Independent Baptist Church of Homer at this writing and his son, Glenn Harbaugh Jr..

The church began a Faith Promise Missions Ministry and it grew to support many missionaries and had an annual budget of over \$25,000.00 a year in a short time.

Shirley was a sever diabetic and had undergone heart surgery just before they moved to Alaska. Her health continued to deteriorate over the years because of the

diabetes and she had to undergo a second open heart surgery here in Anchorage in November of 1986 which she did not survive. Pastor Leonard took her back to her home town of Landis North Carolina for burial. They were married for twenty five years.

This was devastating to Pastor Leonard and also affected the church quite deeply. They were sympathetic and supportive and somehow both the church and pastor came through this tragedy.

A year later Pastor Kenny Bird from Denver Colorado, and his wife, came to preach a revival here at Bible Baptist. He brought with him his sister Marilyn. Marilyn had given herself to caring for her aging parents and had never married. The year after that Pastor Bird ask Brother Leonard come to Denver to preach for him. He and Marilyn began to correspond and were engaged in April of 1988 and married the following September.

In 1989 Pastor Leonard resigned the church and moved outside.

He started and at this writing is the director of the Western States Baptist Mission which has seen 24 new churches founded in the North West in the first seven years of this ministry. He also continues his ministry of writing and has published numerous books and sermons outlines.

Pastor Charles Leonard

Western States Baptist Mission

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1-540-639-5178

Pastor Tim Page:

Tim Page was born in 1949 in the small coal mining community of Linton Indiana. His parents were Christians and faithfully attended the Olive Branch Baptist Church of Linton, a rural congregation. He grew up in this church and accepted Christ as personal savior at the age of eleven and was baptized a short time later. At a revival service in April of 1970 he surrendered his life to Christ under the preaching of Evangelist Carlyle Scott. Under the leadership of Pastor Olin Strader he was taught in the scripture and lead by the Spirit of God into the field of missions.

He began his preparation for this work in January 1971 by starting his training at Baptist Bible College in Denver Colorado. Here he met and married his wife DeEtta in October 1971. They moved to Chattanooga Tennessee in 1975 where he completed his under graduate work at Tennessee Temple University in 1979. He earned a Masters degree and a Doctorate of Ministries from Louisiana Baptist Theological Seminary in Shreveport Louisiana in 1999.

During the annual Missions Conference at the Highland Park Baptist Church in Chattanooga in November of 1979 he felt lead to go to Alaska as a missionary because of the influence of an Alaskan missionary, Lindsey Williams, who was preaching during the conference. He began deputation upon graduation in May of that year and spent the summer of 1980 in Alaska doing survey work in the villages along the Kuskokwim River in central Alaska. Brother Page began his ministry working through the Kenai Baptist Temple in Kenai, Alaska under the leadership of Pastor Bob Larrabee. He assisted other missionaries by flying supplies and providing transportation for them while at the same time establishing his own ministry. He has worked in the village of Port Gram on the south central coast and in the villages of Nikolai, McGrath, Sleetmute, Stony River, Lime Village, and Aniak on the Kuskokwim River. He helped to establish the Kenai Bible Institute in the church in Kenai and trained two preachers.

His primary ministry was in Lime Village. In 1988 he turned this ministry over to Brother Jack Nelson and the Pages went outside on furlough for a year to report to their supporting churches. They returned to Kenai in 1990 and spent a year trying to establish a ministry in another village. In 1991 Brother Page received a call from Mr. John Loew, chairman of pulpit committee, of the Bible Baptist Church in Chugiak and was ask if he would be their pastor.

1991

The church had been without a pastor for eighteen months and was unable to support a pastor finically. The church was put on missionary statuses and Pastor Page became the Missionary Pastor with the intent of bringing the church to a self supporting position as soon as possible. He commuted for several months on the weekend from Kenai but was able to find housing by November and was here on a permanent basis then.

His first Sunday as pastor there were eighteen people present not including his family of six. The attendance had drop off considerably over the past several months without a pastor.

The church had lost their building by receivership to the Federal Deposit Insurance Company (F.D.I.C.) a few years prier but was still allowed to occupy and use it for a nominal rent. Because of the oil embargo of the 1980's many businesses and banks has gone under financially including the church. It took a lot of time because of the huge backlog for the FDIC to get around to Bible Baptist Church. In January of 1992 he received a letter from them demanding payment in full within thirty days. With all the penalties, interest and back payments the total came to \$360,000.

This began a period of about a year and a half of negotiations with the FDIC to try and resolve the situation. Because the church now had a full time pastor it began to grow and the people began to give toward the purchase of the building. In 1993 financing was obtained and the church bought the building back from the FDIC for \$150,000 with a fifteen year mortgage.

When Pastor Page arrived the church was operating an ACE school (Accelerated Christian Education). Over the first two years of his ministry it was all the church could do to maintain the school. And with the burden of the buying the building it was just too much and the school was closed at the end of school year in 1993. At one time there were as many as 27 students enrolled and two full time paid teachers, Mark and Cathy Blackburn. The attendance was over sixty consistently at this time but because of disputes over the closing of the school some left and the attendance went back down to around twenty.

There was only one way to go which was forward. Gradually the attendance and membership increased by the salvation of new people as opposed to the gathering of old members. Several new ministries were started

There was only one way to go which was forward. Gradually the attendance and membership increased by the salvation of new people as opposed to the gathering of old members. Several new ministries were started over the course of time.

The first thing Pastor Page did was to expand the Sunday School ministry to include classes for each age group from nursery to adult. Two year after his taking the church a Faith Promise Missionary ministry was begun and two missionaries were taken on for support. God has blessed and prospered over the years and at this writing the church supports 19 missionaries and mission projects. A VBS (Vacation Bible School) was started to help meet the needs of young people during the summer months. The church host an annual Couples Retreat to help meet the needs of the home and family. We host or participate in an annual Ladies Retreat and also an annual Men's Retreat hosted by Bible Baptist Church of Fairbanks to help meet the needs of the individual. We have a Frontline Club ministry for children on Wednesday nights at the same time as our adult prayer and Bible Study and a children's ministry for age's three to eight during the Sunday morning service.

After the attendance grew sufficiently a choir was started and every year puts on a Christmas program in December and a special Easter presentation in April and provides music for each Sunday service. We started a Discipleship ministry to train

our new converts in basic doctrine and ministry in a personal one on one setting. We have begun to explore the possibilities of the internet by building a church Wed Site and are having success in reaching those in the local community with tangible results.

At this writing in March of 2009 it is the desire of this church and this Pastor to continue to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ by the preaching and teaching of His Word as preserved for us in the Kings James Bible and to bring souls into His Kingdom.

John 12:32

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

History Through Pictures



The first Vacation Bible School in the Old Chugiak Elementary school building in July of 1976. They registered 105 children and had 95 on our high day.



The Jan and Wanda Blackburn family joining the church in December 1976 at the Old Chugiak Elementary school building. Brother Turnbull foreground.



This is the inside of the Old Chugiak Elementary school building, 1st Congregation in 1977.



The 4th of July 1977 Parade to kick off our 2nd Vacation Bible School in Eagle River, Alaska.



The second Vacation Bible School in 1977



Christmas Banquet, 1977 in the Atwater Building



The Atwater Building in May of 1979. BBC took up most of the 2nd floor on the right side of the building. This is where most of our growth took place.



May 1979, Memorial Day picnic at Eklutna Lake. It was an annual event to go to the lake on Memorial Day



The July 4th picnic in 1979 at the Turnbull's house on Tonsina Ct. in Eagle River



Church fellowship, May 1979



Taken in 1980, some of the men of the church preparing to go hunting in Hatcher Pass



The mother of one of the church members (Dan Gross) who was a missionary to the Navajo Indians in New Mexico. She is presenting her ministry to the church.



Atwater building in Eagle River – the church met upstairs,



One of many baptismal services held at the Anchorage Baptist Temple in Anchorage The mom was baptized.



May 1980, Memorial Day picnic at Eklutna Lake



September 1980, Labor Day picnic at Eklutna Lake.



Road Kill Ministry, hanging the quarter meat



*Dave Brauneis background
Jeff Johnston foreground*



Road Kill Ministry, cutting and wrapping the meat

This is our Road Kill Ministry, we got the church on the Road Kill list for the Highway Patrol, and we got a call about once every month. We had one hour to respond, which we did. The moose were always on or next to the road so we had a crew to quarter them up and hang the meat, then about three days later another crew would butcher and wrap it and we put it in freezers until someone needed it. It was a great outreach ministry. January 1981



January 1982 - Church Fellowship



December 1981 - Christmas Banquet



Teen Camp at Eklutna hosted by the church. Missionary Stan Roach preaching. Pastor Leonard foreground (1986 – 1987?)



Pastor Leonard conducting chapel services at the Chugiak building in 1988.



Missionary Gregg Turnbull – Founder of Bible Baptist Church



Dr. Tom Sooter - Couple's Retreat - 2009



*Essie Miller's Going
Away Party - 2008*



Master's Club - 2005



Men's Retreat - 2009



Men's Retreat - 2007



Youth Rally - 2007

CHURCH MEMBERS



2009

Church Roster

2009

Benevides, Sue

Emily

Brand, Mark

Shannon

Suzanne

Brown, Bill

Michelle

Michaela

Will

Burts, Ann

Travis

Cunningham,

Randy

Yvonne

Craig

Samuel

Drew, Tyson

Brenda

Deanna

Ashton

Addison

Faulkner, Shane

Martha

James

Joseph

Jared

Finch, Harvey Sr.

Heidi

Harvey Jr.

Kameron

Roman

Abigail

Madison

Ava

Aden

Frazier, Tom

Carmen

Tommy

Tyler

Gates, Maynard

Theresa

Alysha

Sylvia

Indiana

Halliburton, Scott

Carmen

Will

Harold, Scott

Karen

Marc

Katalyna

Matthew

Andrew

Noah

Sophia

Heater, Mary

Heater, Paul

Hess, Vince

Kristi

Garrett

Anna

Hoff, Leroy

Jacobson,

Corey

Jessica

Derek

Cadyn

Casey

Niva, Todd

Lori

Aaron

Carley

Page, Brent

Page, Neil

Grace

Page, Steven

Desiree

Page, Timothy

DeEtta

Seiber, Joseph

Rachelle

Joshua

Joy

Hudson

Bethany

Brittany

Tague, Jonathan

Janet

Luke