

Bible-Based Fellowship Church of Temple Terrace

One VISION

One VOICE

One VICTORY

Vision

The Bible-Based Fellowship Church of Temple Terrace will reach and reproduce within the Tampa Bay and Temple Terrace areas, and its surrounding communities, a people inspired, (equipped with a passion for the truth of Christ and His compassion for others), who will be enablers of change, for the discouraged, the disenfranchised, the disinherited, and the dispossessed.

“We are Bible-Based, Christ-centered, Holy Spirit led, extending God’s Kingdom biblically, evangelistically, educationally, entrepreneurially, through expansion, economically, politically, socially and globally.”

The BBFCTT Journey 1998-2018

In the Beginning-

God’s presence, power, protection, promise and perfection have abounded from the March 31, 1998 inception of Bible-Based Fellowship Church of Temple Terrace. Under the leadership of Rev. Earl B. Mason Sr., Th.D., Founding and Senior Pastor; vision became reality when 39 individuals (Mary Bellamy, Gloria Britt, Ron Britt, Jacqueline Davis, George A. Davis, Sylvia Gentle, Pat Gilbert, Davis Gilbert, Alfreda Grady, Betty Guzman-Baker, Clinton Ingram, Thelma Ingram, Valerie Ingram, Henry Ingram, Julia Jackson, Delores Lee, John Lee, Belinda Lewter, Peggie Mason, Shaundra Matthews, Sam McPherson, Mattie McPherson, Frances McPherson, Annie Nichols, Karen Pierce, Denise Rackard, Yolanda Randolph, Frank Silas, Barbara Silas, Roxian Streeter, Leonard Streeter, Nikki Streeter, Mary White, Al White, Joyce Williams, Elizabeth Williams, Rudine Williams, Ted Williams, Gwen Williams) met in God’s presence at Tampa Bay Technical Institute forming the first congregation of Bible-Based Fellowship Church of Temple Terrace (BBFCTT).

On April 12, 1998, Pastor Earl B. Mason, Sr., preached his first sermon for members of the Bible-Based Fellowship Church of Temple Terrace. Not yet having a typical church building, the first members and visitors met in a conference room at the Best Western Hotel on Busch Blvd and I-275. A handful of women served as the choir and a few men as ushers on that day. All those present at the first service celebrated a new beginning for a church in God’s Kingdom and remembered the resurrection of Jesus Christ by partaking in Communion.

The first sermon preached by Pastor Mason was entitled, “Thank God, Sunday Came.” An excerpt from that sermon:

“This is the first service of the roundup..... To reclaim, to rebuild, to retrieve, to repair, to restore, to reconcile, yea even to resurrect...” Because I know that I’m not in my own hands, because I know my future is not in my own hands, because I know that He holds my future, life is worth living. I want to on this

Resurrection Sunday, in this Sunrise Service, invite you to turn to the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 27 and 28." "...You have to understand that here on this Sunrise Service....I'm so glad Sunday came."

Bible-Based Fellowship Church of Temple Terrace continues to fulfill the God-given vision through significant progress and work of the ministry. Each year has been marked with a theme to focus the ministry emphasis for the year.

1998 - "Pressing Toward the Mark" God's power was evident as Pastor Mason preached "Thank God, Sunday Came" and 129 joined the congregation during the first service. Holding true to its name of being a Bible-Based Fellowship Church, Bible study began and on the second Sunday of May 1998, Dottie Fisher, became one of the first members to be baptized. Within one month's time, June 14, 1998, the official choir of 12 magnified songs of praise during the 4:00p.m. Dedication Service held at the new church home: 8718 North 46th Street, Tampa, Florida. More than 20 ministries were established providing opportunities for leadership and spiritual growth. Nearly 1000 joined the church, 80 members were baptized and By-Laws were written during the first year. Members reached out to the surrounding communities through door to door evangelism, hosting an education seminar for parents and children, and holding the first of what has become a tradition of annual revivals. The commitment to education was further enhanced with the opening of the Child Care Center, June 4, 1999, and the Village of Excellence Academy in 2000.

2000 - "Transitioning to Triumph" during this year, the vision statement was utilized to further advance the church. *"The Bible-Based Fellowship Church of Temple Terrace will reach and reproduce within the Tampa Bay and Temple Terrace areas, and its surrounding communities, a people inspired, (equipped with a passion for the truth of Christ and His compassion for others), who will be enablers of change for the discouraged, the disenfranchised, the disinherited and the dispossessed. We are Bible-Based, Christ-Centered, Holy Spirit led, extending God's kingdom biblically, evangelistically, educationally, entrepreneurially, through expansion, economically, politically, socially, and globally."* Fellowship was forged with area congregations as relationships were built with churches in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Pompano Beach, and Fort Lauderdale. A residential duplex was purchased as affordable housing for those in need. Sunday school was emphasized and special services such as revivals and seminars were held throughout the year.

2001 – BBFCTT continued to grow during 2001. "Transitioning to Triumph: Every Member in Ministry" was the theme for the year. Transition we did through worship services, revivals, biblical instruction and Sunday school. Assistant Pastors John Hollman and James Jackson were added to the staff, choir robes were purchased, CMOBB Campus Ministry of Bible-Base was strengthened and Camp Logos provided an opportunity to improve Bible study techniques.

2002 - The theme for 2002 was **"Transitioning to Triumph: Magnifying the Lord, Mobilizing the Laity and Ministering to the Lost"**. The Lord was magnified through preaching, teaching and revivals: the first Seven Last Sayings service was held. 2002 marked the start of Youth-4-Truth and there were many Youth Pastor's leading this ministry to include: Cametra Edwards, James Jackson, Karen Pierce, Braunda Ridley, Demario Rollins, Sharone Smith, Kevin Williams, and Terry Yates. BBFCTT also hosted a choral workshop featuring V. Michael McKay. The laity was mobilized through the National Day of Prayer as well as through opening the Kingdom Furniture Store July 19, 2002. Other ministry programs were offered such as Family Movie Night, A Taste of Bible-Base, Week-in-the Word and Soul Winning ministered to the lost.

2003 - BBFCTT was **"Going to the Next Level"**. The congregation began a Spiritual Journey. 2003 was the first year that Pastor Mason licensed ministers through the School of the Prophets. A total of 12

ministers have been licensed to include (in alphabetical order): Harold Doby, Cametra Reed Edwards, Renard Edwards, Romaine Edwards, Theresa Henry, William Henry, Karolyn Johnson, Karen Pierce, DeMario Rollins, Joyce Simon, Felix Walters and Terry Yates. The church embarked on a number of community outreach opportunities including a water crusade, eight revivals, Second Harvest of Tampa, SHARE, Movie Night, Soul Winning Ministry, Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for the community, Wednesday Night Dinners and campus ministry. BBFCTT began to actualize the vision *Globally* through the support of Gambia, as well as Educational Enhancement, by offering SAT prep classes and tutoring for youth. 2003 also represents the year that BBFCTT became actively involved in the Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference, where Pastor Mason serves on the Board.

2004 - "The Spiritual Journey Continues: Experiencing God, Expressing Christ, Exhibiting the Holy Spirit"

in 2004. Ministry programs increased by offering a Singles Weekend, Women's Day Revival, Watch Night Service, Youth Camp, Men's Week, Couple's Retreat, Son Rise Service, Ministries on the Lawn, Family Movie Night and several revivals. BBFCTT became involved in social justice by participating in the "March on Tallahassee" protesting F-CAT testing. Members volunteered as pole monitors and voter education was provided during the 2004 Presidential elections. Fellowship between members were strengthened through Wednesday Night Dinners, and housing seminars. Pastor Mason and a small team, in partnership with Dr. Mary Lindsey and the University of South Florida Center of Excellence, traveled to Africa for the "Gambia Outreach." This team delivered medical and school supplies, served in missions and shared the gospel of Christ. Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets were distributed, Angle Tree gifts provided, as well as hosting Toys for Tots.

2004 also brought with it challenges as Hurricane Jeanne damaged our Sanctuary, restrooms, Child Care Center classrooms and cafeteria. Praise God we maintained usage of the Sanctuary; however the Child Care Center was temporarily relocated to the gym and the Fellowship Hall bathrooms were utilized. Rally to Rebuild was the program designed to financially increase giving for the purposes of restoration of the facilities. These efforts resulted in the renovation of the main Sanctuary and Child Care Center, in addition to the remodeling of both the men's and women's restrooms.

2005 - Bible-Based Fellowship Church of Temple Terrace entered 2005 with the determination of "Keeping God Above Everything Else". Praise the Lord; renovations were completed. The sound room and finance rooms were relocated and H.I.S. (History – Inspiration – Sermons) Bookstore was opened. The Church Anniversary was celebrated the entire month of April. It opened with a Praise Rally and continued with Youth Movie Night, Ministry on Parade, Family Bowling, BBFCTT Cookbook, Youth Talent Showcase, Church Picnic in McFarland Park and ended with the preaching of a powerful Word on Friends and Family Day. The church actively pursued community evangelism. Emphasis was placed on leadership development and ministry collaboration. A special Bible study began to be held at USF for college students as a part of the Campus Ministry.

2006 – "Gripping the Hand of Grace," was the focused themed. BBFCTT continued to fulfill vision through extending God's Kingdom educationally. In 2006 VOEA was the only Charter School in Hillsborough County to receive EEP Advancing Education through Technology Grant.

2007 - "From the Pew to Participation" marked the 2007 theme. Pastor Mason kicked off the ninth year asking "Where are the Nine?" It was a call to action. Every member was challenged to commit to actively participate in at least one ministry. The Village of Excellence Academy continued to expand by adding a 5th Grade class.

BBFCTT continued to focus on socially conscious issues. On September 16, 2007 a worship service was held in honor of the Jena 6. A litany and prayer was made on behalf of them and their families rekindling the fire of Social Justice.

2008 - "This is the Time, This is the Place, We are the People was the theme for the 10th year of ministry. It was a year rich in faith and fellowship. May 19, 2008 Village of Excellence Academy was awarded the 67th Charter Membership into the National Elementary Honor Society. This marked the first year we celebrated Church Anniversary, in what is known as "Worship in the Park." The church assisted in voter registration, hosted NAACP political forums, served as a voting precinct and held a watch party as we celebrated the election of the first Black U.S. President. Christian Education continued to advance the first BBFCTT Institute: "Trusting a Certain God in Uncertain Financial Times" was held.

2009 - "The Church Makes the Difference" echoed the corridors in 2009. The year began in BBFCTT tradition revival and a summons to pray. The Health Care ministry posed a "Wellness Challenge: Commit to be Fit" and began publishing a quarterly newsletter. During the summer, Pastor Mason lead a team on a return trip to the Gambia, donating much needed clothing, food, medical and school supplies.

2010 - "God is Doing It Again in 2010". Indeed He did as BBFCTT sent missionaries to assist in Haiti Earthquake Relief, March 2010. The church supported Census 2010. The For Men Only Ministry hosted the 2010 Men's Health Forum & Breakfast, July 24. The For Women Only Ministry lead the charge as the church family laced up, October 23, for the Breast Cancer Walk. BBFCTT has developed many community partners as an integral part of fulfilling the vision, to include Pastors on Patrol, Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Connect to Protect (HIV/AIDS), and Feeding America of Tampa Bay.

2011 - "Back to the Future: on Earth as it is in Heaven, in 2011". We were blessed through dynamic preaching, revivals and the ministry of Speaking Hands. A Rally to Renovate campaign was initiated to fund the renovation of the 8732 property. June 4, 2011 the First Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament was held. On June 7, 2011 the BBFTT Prayer Line was launched. The Mission & Outreach Ministry held an Open House for a Food Pantry and Clothes Boutique at 8707 N. 46th Street, September 11, 2011. As a unified body of believers, BBFCTT joined in "Community of One." Through the generosity and the heart of a giving Pastor, the "God Always Provides" (G.A.P.) project helped provide clothing, technical resources and monetary assistance to unemployed members of BBFCTT.

2012 - "We Have This Ministry...We Faint Not" was the message for 2012. Significant focus was placed on prayer, praise and much faith. A Prayer Institute was held to provide direction, instruction, and encouragement. We had fellowship with the New Members Ministry at "Movie Night on the Lawn" and as a congregation at Family Beach Day, Fort Desoto. These were opportunities to minister to the community through providing food, evangelism, and encouragement, in what we called the Day of Service. 2012 marks another year of expanded partnership with the Homeless Coalition and University of South Florida's Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-School Youngsters (HIPPY).

2013 - BBFCTT began "Shifting the Atmosphere" *reaching and reproducing in the Tampa Bay and Temple Terrace areas and its surrounding communities a people inspired equipped with the truth of Christ and His compassion for others.* Despite the challenges of rising operating cost, replacement of our main air condition system, drastic decline in both attendance and giving, accompanied by a portion of membership becoming detached form ministry God graced our fifteenth year with Faith, Favor, and Fruitfulness. January 12, 2013 BBFCTT held a screening of the "House I Live In" resulting in the founding of the Tampa Inter-Faith Coalition for Juvenile Justice (TIC4JJ); a community-based organization comprised of multid denominational faith based leaders collectively working to end social injustices. BBFCTT shifted the atmosphere of the community empowering the discouraged and disenfranchised through hosting a Town Hall meeting on Juvenile Justice, providing book scholarships to college students, For Women Only "Hide No More" conference, and For Men Only reemphasis on

prayer. We participated in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Heart Disease (Go Red Campaign), and Breast Cancer. The 8732 Building and property renovation was completed and serves our community through expanded Education Enhancement, as the home of the Head Start Program. Ministry to the dispossessed and disinherited was provided via the Food Pantry, Senior's Thanksgiving Luncheon, Christmas for Christ community outreach, as well as partnerships with Angel Tree, Speaking Hands, Feeding America, and Manna on Wheels. God continued to Shift the Atmosphere through powerful worship experiences. -**"The Journey Continues!"**

2014 – Bible-Based reinforced the 2013 theme, **"Shifting the Atmosphere: Moving from Fear to Faith."** BBFCTT embarks upon her sixteenth year anniversary under the dedicated, faithful and unwavering *Bible-Based, Christ-Centered, Holy Spirit led* leadership of our Senior and Founding Pastor, Rev. Dr. Earl B. Mason, Sr., as he celebrates 25 years of Pastoring. 2014 has proven to be a very challenging year, one that has truly kept us in touch with God. This year has been deemed to be a year of courage, commitment and consecration. During the first quarter we have been blessed in revivals with Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright, Jr., Rev. Dr. Melvin Wade and Rev. Dr. Lance Watson. Core values of our ministry are being realized as we transform lives biblically, evangelistically, educationally, politically, socially and globally; via powerful preaching and teaching, community evangelism, hosting an Affordable Healthcare Act symposium, Moral Monday trips to Tallahassee, Haiti relief, flourishing Head Start, HIPPIY and Childcare Center, as well as hundreds being fed monthly through the Food Pantry. Our hearts are poised in expectation as we continue **Moving from Fear to Faith!**

2015 & 2016 – The Lord directed Pastor Mason to continue with the theme **"Shifting the Atmosphere."** However, **"Building A Winning Team"** became the focus of our shift. Pastor preached many messages about the need for Bible-Based leadership and congregation to become a stronger and better team for fulfilling the Lord's vision. Throughout the year, Pastor taught *"The Definition of Christian Leadership; "Nehemiah: Lessons on Leadership,"* and many of us will remember the *"Covenant of Leadership."* It was during these two years where we conducted both a Congregational and Leadership Assessment to determine how we could execute God's Vision of Bible-Based Fellowship Church of Temple Terrace.

2017 – Bible-Based Fellowship Church of Temple Terrace is still **Shifting the Atmosphere**, but in 2017 we are **"Focused on the Family – Family Matters."** 2017 began aggressively with having to address matters in the family, in both individual families as well as our church family. Regardless, we started early with a Family in Praise Workshop where V. Michael McKay, taught us not only how to praise as a family, but also he left us with a new theme song – *"Family Matters."* As the Journey of BBFTT continues, we are excited by what the Lord is doing in the life of Bible-Based. 2017 represented a year of "storms" that impacted many lives. The devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey in Texas prompted BBFTT to partner with Pastor Lloyd Scott of Easter Star Missionary Baptist Church in Port Arthur, Texas. The members BBFTT collected clothing, household items, health care supplies and gift card to offer relief to the families devastated by Hurricane Harvey. Minister of Music – Darnell Crandle, and Minister John Armstrong accompanied Pastor Mason after drove over 800 miles to deliver relief items to the families in Port Arthur, Texas.

2018 – **"We've Come This Far By Faith!"** We are celebrating 20 years of divine leadership, impactful ministry, and community involvement. The theme for 20th year is **"Pressing Toward the Mark"** (Philippians 3:14). The Lord directed Pastor Mason to a similar theme 20 years later – the 1998 theme was "Pressing for the Prize." We have been challenged to "go back to basics" in 2018 and to ensure that we remain steadfast on this journey.