

Fellowship Baptist Church, Raiford

(continued . . .)

Becky, Cathy, and Mary; Mr. and Mrs. Joe O'Guinn and Wendy; Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Crawford and Daniel; Mr. and Mrs. Don Newmans, Gordon & Donna; and Mr. and Mrs. Morris Dobbs and Monette. Church services were held in the fellowship hall until the sanctuary was finished.

Rev. John Davis served as the first pastor until October 1980. Rev. John Strickland followed him. On June 5, 1982, Rev. Bobby Register became pastor, staying for 13 years. It was during this time that the church decided to purchase a three-bedroom manufactured home for the use of Brother Register and his family.

During Brother Register's long tenure, the Lord used him to grow a church full of dedicated Christians committed to the task of serving the Lord. Many people came to know the Lord and were baptized during this time.

In October 1992, the church voted to pave the parking lot, which was really appreciated when it was completed. During this time, the Lord was dealing with Brother Register, as he was being led to move. It was a sad time when Brother Register resigned in August 1994.

The church next called Rev. Herb Young on December 3, 1995, to serve as pastor. Brother Young served for ten months, and although he had a short tenure, he created excitement among the young people of the church and many new families joined.

On June 23, 1997, the church called Rev. Michael Fox as pastor. The Lord was really working in the life of the people of Fellowship Baptist. In September of 1998, Brother Mike accepted a call from another church.

About this time, the property next door to the church was put on the market. The owners offered it first to the church at an exceptionally good price. After much prayer and discussion in the church, the members decided to go ahead and buy the property. The house would be used for a pastorium in place of the mobile home presently being used. The land would offer room for expansion in the future as well as other uses.

Since the manufactured home was no longer in use as a pastorium, the church decided to use it for one of the Sunday school departments. Eventually, we decided to use it only for the youth department. Having their own separate building seemed to appeal to the youth, and the department has really grown in number as well as in excitement.

Fellowship Baptist celebrated their 20th anniversary at their Homecoming in March 1999. The church is presently seeking the man the Lord has for them to serve as their pastor. Although the church does not have a full-time shepherd for their congregation, it is busy doing the Lord's work.



Groundbreaking at Fellowship Baptist Church, Raiford

