

On August 6, 1981, as a girl of 12 years old, I went to church at the home of Mr. Clint Shaw. Our congregation of 42 members became known as Calvary Baptist Mission.

The first officers elected were Sarah Poppell as church secretary and treasurer. Lou Ella Shaw was elected as church clerk. Trustees were also elected and the board consisted of Clint Shaw, who is now deceased, Hansel Redd, Clayton Woodward, Harold Shaw and Herbert Murphy, who is also deceased.

On September 20, 1961, the first elected officers were to become permanent. Also on this day the Mission voted unanimously for Rev. Joe Engel to become our first pastor.

On October 4, 1961, Calvary adopted the rules and bylaws for the Taylor Baptist Association and submitted for membership of the Association.

In our early days we had no church building, so we had church in a fish market on Jefferson Street, and the American Legion Hall on Center street, but we still had a loving spirit and really enjoyed our early days of worship in these places.

We decided we needed a church building and on January 3, 1962, we elected Sarah Poppell and Margaret Robertson to contact the land owners of our present site on Highway 98. Our building committee officers were elected and were as follows: Lenard Pridgeon, Sarah Poppell, Herbert Murphy. Frank & Margaret Robertson and Sam Poppell were elected as helpers to the committee.

We borrowed \$9,000.00 for our building and ground breaking was observed March 18, 1962. Our ground breaking was something of an affair. We had a picnic on the grounds of the City Park. Henry Dorsett, Clint Shaw, Hansel Redd, Frank Robertson, Wesley Williams, Sam Poppell, James Jackson, J.B. Dansby, Paul Brannen, Fred Riegel, Adrian Young were the chefs for a crowd of five hundred people. The Lord blessed this day because our Sunday School attendance was 64. Our membership at this time was 37. Our offering this memorable day was \$2,080.00, and what a glorious day in the Lord we had.

We lost our pastor, Rev. Joe Engel, April 18, 1964. On July 2, 1964, we called Arthur King as pastor.

On December 14, 1965, Joe Hughes was ordained as a preacher. The ordination service was held by Rev. Felix Parker, Rev. Art King and Rev. Harold Combs preached the ordination sermon. On August 30, 1967, Calvary voted to accept the resignation of Bro. Art King, effective immediately.

Our next pastor came within a couple of months. Rev. James Rowe accepted our call to be our pastor. Our church grew and all of our members enjoyed each others love and fellowship. Rev. Rowe