

A GLANCE AT THE HISTORY OF THE PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH (CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CHURCH) IN KRUGERSDORP.

The West Rand Times in its weekend edition stated that the Pentecostal Holiness Church would begin services on Sunday mornings in the Scout Hall in Boshoff Street. Many were negative about such a venture into faith.

However, at 11.00 a.m. on the second Sunday in March, 1958, a small group of people consisting of 6 adults and 10 children gathered for the first worship service.

The writer well remembers how the Changuion family came along to encourage some of their relatives who were not attending church. It was only a brief period of time before they realized that this was a divine appointment, they were part of that first service. God was directing their paths and leading them to become foundation members in this new outreach for souls. The Changuions became great spiritual pillars in what was destined to be Krugersdorp's largest church by 1975.

Even though many years have passed, and the founding Pastor, Rev Jimmy Gardner and his wife Ester worked tirelessly for the establishing of the church, they returned to the States with their family. Their son, Talmage serves on the General Board of Administration and their other son Derek is in charge of a growing church in South Carolina and their daughter Rosemary is active in the church in Burlington, North Carolina. Pastor Gardener passed away in 2008, his wife Esther still prays in her far away country in U.S.A. for the Church in Krugersdorp.

In August, 1958, the church was organized with a total of thirteen members, which were the people who had attended the first service plus others who had become interested. A couple of weeks later, more new members were added to the new church, bringing the number to fifteen members. Dr D.D. Freeman, General Supervisor of the denomination in Southern Africa, established the group as a registered church.

By that time Mr and Mrs Barton and family which included Yvonne Barton became members of the newly formed church. Yvonne became the wife of Pat Godwin and they now are the Pastors of the church. In 1990 they gave the Krugersdorp Pentecostal Holiness Church the name of Christian Heritage Church, Krugersdorp, because they know that the Gardener couple left the church with a good Christian Heritage.

Back to 1958. For two years the church continued to meet in the Scout Hall under some trying circumstances.

In 1960 with such an increase in attendance, the Scout Hall was not able to accommodate the rapidly growing church. After much prayer and careful consideration, an empty shop building which was located on the Sterkfontein Road, was renovated and turned into a comfortable chapel.

The blessings of the Lord continued to pour out upon the church in spite of many hostile satanic attacks. At times it seem as though the walls would have to be pushed out because so many came to worship. Because of overcrowding, the building was a constant worry to the Fire Department and the parking of many cars of great concern to the Traffic Department.

In November, 1962, the Lord wrought another of many miracles in the congregation. The church secured the present property for the unbelievable price of 25 pounds or \$75. Counsellor Louis Friedman, an Orthodox Jew, had become a devoted friend of Pastor Gardner and his family and he lead the church through the unbelievable red tape of owning their own property.

Rumours, though falsified, travelled the town that Louis Friedman had converted from the Orthodox Jewish faith to a Pentecostal. His comment was, "If I wasn't a Jew then I would be a Pentecostal". He remained a friend to the pastoral family until his death.

The Lord moved strongly in the hearts of His people again to move forward. On Saturday the 16th March 1963, was a memorable day. Firstly the cornerstone was unveiled, reading, "Laid to the Glory of God, by Mr Jack Howell, who laboured so untiringly for the erection of this church". Mr Howell, besides acting as owner builder of the Church, had put up his business, "Steel Industries", as security for the loan which was quickly paid by the fast growing, enthusiastic and self sacrificing congregation.

Hearts overflowed with praise and gratitude to our Heavenly Father, who had led us in the building of a Haven of Worship. The church membership had grown to 175 members and 200 adherents which caused the 300 seater sanctuary to be filled from the very opening.

Pastor Bill List assisted by Pat and Yvonne Godwin and Mr and Mrs Changuion, pastored the Church from December 1963 to March 1965, while Jimmy and Esther Gardner were on furlough in the U.S.A.

By 1966, not only was the seating capacity of the Church inadequate and had to have added chairs, loud speakers were placed in the windows and seating was provided outside on the lawns and in the small fellowship building.

Again the people laboured and built the present facility.

In December 1972, the doors were unlocked to this magnificent and spacious edifice.

Next was the unveiling of the cornerstone by the Town Counsellor and Deacon P.R. Human which read, "Laid to the glory of God, whose loyalty to Christ and His church will not be forgotten".

Rev David and Jeanette Howell were in charge of the church from 1977 to 1985.

Today Dr. Pat and Yvonne Godwin are the senior Pastors of Christian Heritage Church today and Pastor Keith and Cheryl Williams are the assistant Pastors.

To God be the glory, great things He has done, is doing and will continue to do.

