



Decatur Bible Chapel

Decatur, Georgia

Georgia, known for its pecans, peanuts and Vidalia onions, is the home of Decatur Bible Chapel (DBC). DBC was established in October 1991, through the vision of Dr. T Michael Flowers to plant “a New Testament Church in every major city of the Southeast.” His vision motivated those around him; as the fruits of his labor grew so too did the members of DBC. DBC began that year with 54 members led by Pastor, Dr. T Michael Flowers, Elders F Ronnie Hart and Bill Gordon, and Deacons Bros. Charles Levene and Ed Gardner.

One of the church’s ministries was cell group Bible studies to bring those living in different parts of Metro Atlanta together. The group in the Stone Mountain / Decatur area was one of the largest. This group met each Sunday at the local YMCA on Snapfinger Road in Decatur. They came early to replace the floor exercise mats with carpet and set up chairs. This process continued for many years.

Events were held to raise funds for the church’s ministries, including a benefit concert performed by a choir from New York. This group of passionate Christians understood the need to grow their community outreach program. Many hours of visitation and witnessing in the neighborhood brought great success.

As the membership increased, so too did the need to locate a permanent facility. Several church buildings were considered as well as the idea of constructing a new building. The Southern Gospel Missions Association (SGMA) formed in 1966, by several Christian businessmen, became aware of DBC’s efforts and its plan to construct a permanent facility. SGMA donated three acres of land in Lithonia, GA, for construction of a new building. God was clearly in control as prayer and faith resulted in the birth of a permanent facility.

Construction began in 1991, and the members came out in droves to help with the work. Some came with their own tools, some with their bare hands. Members expended their time and energy to ensure that the building was compliant with all building codes, and pleasing to God. While the saints demonstrated their dedication to the Lord throughout the building process, the greatest test of faith came when the building funds were exhausted, and the church needed more money than it was qualified to borrow.

The leaders brought the issue to the

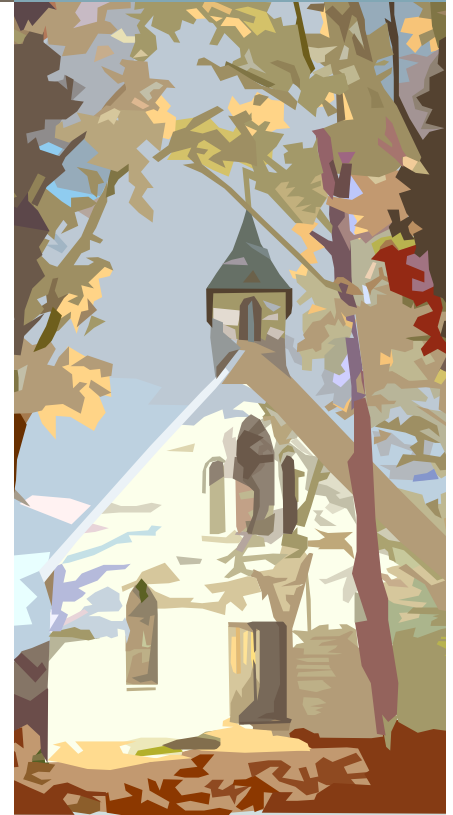


church and without hesitation, members were ready to help. Many considered lending their own funds interest-free. Others, with savings or disposable income, gladly gave loans that were eventually converted to gifts. The undaunted members placed their trust in God so that all loans were repaid as promised.

Members were asked to help with costs by purchasing a chair for each member of their family. Most bought more than their family needed as an additional donation to the church. Once all the work was completed it was time to begin the work of the Lord – “A time to reach the lost through the Gospel of Christ”.

Consistent with the mandate of their faith, DBC began to

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I CORINTHIANS 4:2, "IT IS REQUIRED"

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grow its various ministries. Early emphasis was placed on the support of missionaries. The initial focus was on local missionaries who reached out to college students and evangelized inner-city youth. Support eventually expanded to missionaries around the world. This work included translating the Bible into dialects with little or no known written language, caring for orphans, and operating schools that use biblical principles to educate Muslim children.

In 1999, the support of full-time missionaries expanded through the implementation of the Faith Promise Offering program (FPO). The premise was asking each member to make a commitment through faith to contribute to the missionary funds. Everyone got involved, including young members. Through this program, DBC currently supports missionaries in various parts of the world such as Kenya, Asia, Liberia, Europe, and the Caribbean.

"God was clearly in control as prayer and faith resulted in the birth of a permanent facility"

Now, mission trips are organized to serve and evangelize different ethnicity and age groups. Most recently, DBC has held a medical fair with volunteers from their own body of believers. What a testimony of God's Grace!

Today, DBC serves the local community through the distribution of tracts, visiting and witnessing in nursing homes, and offering a short-term shelter for women and children. Recently, a Food/Soup Kitchen Ministry was established. During the COVID-19 pandemic this ministry was a beacon of light to many. Each month, DBC opened its doors to assist many families through its food distribution. In addition to these ministries, annual events are held at the church, offering opportunities for evangelism.

DBC's Mission Statement is, "**Exalt** the Lord Jesus Christ in worship, **Expond** His Word through discipleship, **Expand** His Kingdom through evangelism, **Encourage** the body through fellowship and to **Equip** the church for ministry." The Mission Statement is not only a template for the church's ministries, its the basis for assessing the overall spiritual growth of the church.

DBC will forever hold dear the memory of all those who have passed through its doors. However, the memory that will never leave this body of believers, is that of those saints who have moved on to Glory - especially our dear brother and friend, Dr. T Michael Flowers. The work he began, is now for DBC's members to carry to completion.

Commended Worker

Greg Steigleman

In July 1960, I was invited by my uncle to spend a weekend with him, my aunt, and some cousins at a place called Indian Lake, Ohio. On Saturday morning, I was all set to go out and go swimming with my cousins, but my uncle had other plans. He stopped me at the door and asked if he could talk with me. I said, "Yes" so he asked me to sit down and proceeded to talk to me with an open Bible about my soul. I listened to him and read the Scriptures he showed me. It didn't take long to realize that I was a sinner, and in very serious trouble with an all knowing and holy God!

My uncle started along the Roman road, but showed me two other verses that really, really bothered me: Jeremiah 17:9,10. Thankfully, after the bad news, he told me the sweetest, the greatest news I had ever heard in my 14 years; how that Christ died for me, was buried, and then rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures! Then he asked me the most important question I had ever been asked, "Greg, do you want to be saved?" Right there, by grace alone, through faith alone, I trusted in the LORD Jesus Christ as my personal Savior!



As a new creation in Christ, I attended Northern Hills Bible chapel in Cincinnati, Ohio. As the years went by, some brothers in the assembly had a burden to start a new work. That work became Ross Bible Chapel in Hamilton, Ohio. Later, I joined them in the work there.

Around 1986 or 1987, the same uncle who led me to Christ would from time to time show me articles about the work and the workers in mission's magazines.

I didn't realize it at the time, but the Lord was using my uncle to plant seeds in my life of becoming a missionary. It became apparent that the Lord was calling me to Ireland. In May 1990, I was commended to the work in Ireland where I spent six and one-half years serving Him. It was a most blessed and a very valuable experience.

IN STEWARDS THAT A MAN BE FOUND FAITHFUL”

While still in Ireland, I sensed that the Lord wanted me to return to the States here He had another ministry for me to take up. In 1996, I returned to the States and to fellowship at Ross Bible Chapel. While waiting on the Lord, one of the elders there suggested that I should consider The Ezekiel Project School of Evangelism (TEPSE).

Through the prayers of the elders, the saints and my own, I enrolled in their one-year Bible school. At the age of 51, the school was not easy, but by the great grace of my God, I graduated in 1998. After graduating, the founder, Chris Schroder, asked me to join him full-time and I gladly accepted. The elders at Ross changed my commendation to serving with TEPSE. I became one of the instructors in the school, and over the past 20 years, have taught various courses in its curriculum.

“he told me the sweetest, the greatest news I had ever heard in my 14 years”

As of 2021, I am teaching a course in the wisdom / poetry literature - Job-Lamentations - and a course in personal evangelism. Trusting in Christ as my personal Savior was the greatest thing that ever happened to me - there is nothing comparable or equal to it! Are there other “great things” that the Lord would do for me? Yes! He led me to The Ezekiel Project! Oh, how I can identify with Mary’s testimony, “For He that is mighty has done (is still doing/will yet do) **great things (to) “me”** and holy is His name.” *Luke 1:49*

In conclusion, I want to thank my God and Savior anew for the saints at Ross and other assemblies, too many to list, and for para-church ministries - too many to list. Also, I want to especially thank all the families and individuals who through their thoughts, prayers, financial support, hospitality, and other kinds deeds to me have made it possible to serve the Lord! I love the adverbs “wondrously” and “bountifully” in Joel 2:6 and Psalms 13:6. This is how the Lord has, and still is dealing with me, till His soon-coming return!

Annual Members Meeting Report

Stewards Foundation held its Annual Members Meeting on September 18th at Central Bible Chapel in Millbrook, Alabama. The assembly at Millbrook graciously offered to host this year’s annual meeting. The Christians not only warmly welcomed all who attended, but provided everything needed for a successful meeting followed by a wonderful lunch.

Approximately 26 individuals from 4 area assemblies at-

tended this year’s meeting. Following the Annual Members Meeting, presentations were made by Stewards Foundation, Believers Stewardship Services and Christian Missions in Many Lands. These presentations provided historical background on each organization and information on the services they currently offer. A question-and-answer session was conducted after the presentations followed by lunch and fellowship.

One of the primary reasons for the Annual Members Meeting is the election of Trustees to the Board of Stewards Foundation. Trustees are elected to alternating three-year terms so that no more than three Trustees are up for re-election in any year. Two Trustees was re-elected at this year’s meeting, Mr. Greg Drake and Mr. Rob Sullivan. Greg was first elected to the Board in September 2006; Rob began his board tenure in September 2013. Greg is the President of Stewards Foundation and Rob is the Secretary. The biographies of all Trustees are available on our website, www.stewardsfoundation.org.

Another important activity at this meeting is reporting on the corporation’s financial condition. At the end of each fiscal year, the firm of Cantrell Pearson & Associates, PLLC audits Stewards Foundation’s books and financial procedures to produce a financial report based on GAAP - Generally Accepted Accounting Principals. The Board reviews the Auditor’s Financial Report for final approval before it is distributed to the member assemblies as a part of Stewards Foundation’s commitment to accountability.

Stewards Foundation’s fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th, so the report at this year’s meeting covered July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The 2021 fiscal year report included the following financial overview:

Loans:

New Loans: \$1,300,000
Loan Portfolio: \$10,716,963

Healthcare Funding:

Gifts to 266 Workers from 162 assemblies
Amount: \$260,693 (includes \$500 from 100% Pass-Thru Fund)

Incomes / Expense:

Gross Income: \$2,077,839
Cash Inflow: \$796,528 (excludes unrealized gains, sale of stocks, gifts, 100% Pass-Thru)
Cash Outflow: \$567,862 (excludes Healthcare Gifts and some expenses)
Cash Income: \$288,666

Psalms 126:3, “The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad”

Fall 2021



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